

PINK

55p

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CHERRIES' UNBEATEN AWAY RUN IS ENDED

Chesterfield 1 Bournemouth 0 match report – see page 20

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1982...
and all that
When Saints
were the best
team in the land
Four-page
special - P14-17

HE'S BACK



Lambert scores on return but Saints are held by Lions

SAINTS will have to win a replay against Millwall to get through to the FA Cup fifth round after being hit by a late Lions leveller.

Darius Henderson struck three minutes from time just as Saints had looked as though they would see out a 1-0 win thanks to a lead given to them by Rickie Lambert's first half strike on his return from suspension.

An extra fixture is not ideal for Saints in a period of vital league matches, but a draw was the least Millwall deserved against a much changed Saints side.

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GET IN: Rickie Lambert celebrates his goal at Millwall.

FOOTBALL



January sales are hotting up!
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TERRY PAINE



Saints legend's exclusive column.
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NON-LEAGUE



Old guard on way out at Eastleigh
Non-league – p24-29

PLUS:

Youth football pic special.
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FA CUP FOURTH ROUND: Millwall 1 Saints 1

Saints Spotlight

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strengthen...
but so do
their rivals



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news ahead of
London 2012
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MILLWALL 1 SAINTS 1: Saints lumbered with a replay they

SAINTS AND LIONS AGAIN AFTER LATE

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER



SAINTS will have to win a replay against Millwall to get through to the FA Cup fifth round after being hit by a late Lions leveller.

Darius Henderson struck three minutes from time just as Saints had looked as though they would see out a 1-0 win thanks to a lead given to them by Rickie Lambert's first half strike on his return from suspension.

An extra fixture is not ideal for Saints in a period of vital league matches but a draw was the least Millwall deserved against a much changed Saints side.

Millwall got off to a flying start and were unlucky not to take the lead after just two minutes.

James Henry looped in a high cross from the right which Darius Henderson headed back to former Salisbury City winger Liam Feeney.

His shot curled away from Bartosz Bialkowski but struck the foot of the far post and cannoned back out. And they had

arguably a better chance on ten minutes when Henry's corner went all the way through to Harry Kane at the far post.

It may have been a surprise it got to him, but from just a few yards out he should have done better than to put it over the bar.

It was a fast and furious start to the game.

The pitch was not in a great condition, which perhaps explained why both sides were happy to play quite direct and get the ball from back to front quickly.

Bialkowski had to make a good save on 17 minutes as Saints failed to defend a direct ball up to Henderson, who suddenly found himself with the ball bouncing in front of him on the edge of the area. He had

to take the shot quickly but Bialkowski was alert to the potential lob and turned it over the bar.

Aaron Martin had Saints' first effort at goal four minutes later with a header from a corner but it looped onto the roof of the net.

Henry curled a 25 yard free kick goalwards at the other end but it was easy for Bialkowski to field.

Lambert found himself with a very similar chance. He struck his free kick beautifully but it whistled just wide.

He wasn't to be denied for long though as he produced a brilliant finish to give Saints the lead on 31 minutes.

Ben Reeves played a perfectly weighted pass down the left channel for Dan Harding. He

just reached it at the by-line and whipped it straight in for Lambert to meet with a glancing yet powerful header from the near top corner of the six yard box that beat David Forde at his near post.

Saints were also looking a lot more solid at the back.

By switching Jason Puncheon and Steve De Ridder over they had managed to double up on left winger Feeney who had caused them plenty of early problems.

When the half time whistle went it was Saints with the one goal lead and proof yet again of just how important Lambert is to their ranks. Millwall had had by far the better chances but Saints were in front courtesy of a great finish from what was little more than a sniff of opportunity – the only one they created in the first 45 minutes.

Henry had the first meaningful shot of the second period five minutes after the restart but his long free kick never looked like troubling Bialkowski and went over the bar.

Lambert tried to pull the trigger for Saints on 54 minutes but was stopped by a superb sliding block from Tony Craig. Millwall had come out of the blocks fast though and were trying to put Saints on the back foot, backed by their enthusiastic crowd.

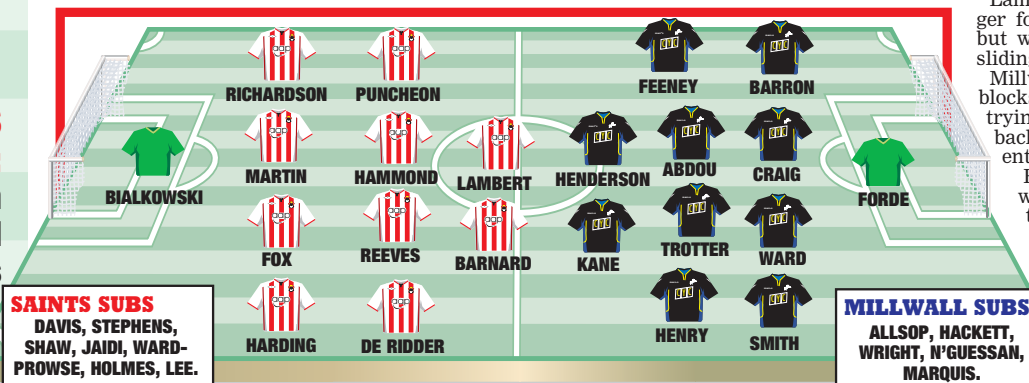
For Saints it was a case of weathering the storm and taking the sting out of the game.

Liam Trotter tried to beat Bialkowski with a delicate chip but it was easy for the keeper.

Saints made their first change on 61 minutes with Lee Holmes coming on for De Ridder.

They followed that up two minutes later by handing a debut to Tadanari Lee in place of Barnard.

Trotter should have done a bit better moments later when he was found with a decent left wing cross but he couldn't



LEE Barnard made his long awaited comeback from injury for the FA Cup fourth round tie at Millwall.

The striker was up front alongside Rickie Lambert, returning to the side after his three game ban, while Jason Puncheon was back in

TEAM NEWS

after resolving his dispute with the club. There were plenty of other changes with Bartosz Bialkowski replacing Kelvin Davis in goal, Danny Fox switching to centre half

after the injury to Jos Hooiveld and Steve De Ridder and Ben Reeves in the midfield ranks.

Tadanari Lee was amongst the subs after finalising his move while Radhi Jaidi was also in the squad after a season out through injury.

READ THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH COLUMN ON PAGE 6

Saints Spotlight

didn't want after Millwall's last-gasp fight back

SET TO DO IT ALL FA CUP LEVELLER



GET IN: Saints players celebrate Rickie Lambert's first half opener and, inset, new signing Tadanari Lee warms up before the game.

turn his shot goalwards and Saints were able to clear.

Millwall made a double switch on 67 minutes with Chris Hackett and Dany N'Guessan replacing Henry and Kane.

Hackett immediately took a corner and picked out the head of Craig just inside the six yard box but he headed over.

Hackett then blazed over from the edge of the area as Millwall continued to cause Saints problems but lacked a cutting edge.

Bialkowski had to turn over

under pressure as Hackett's left wing corner threatened to drop in before Trotter fired over.

Puncheon's deflected effort did at least register as a first shot on target of the second half for Saints but it was not one that tested Forde.

Saints made their final switch on 78 minutes with Luke Shaw making his debut replacing Puncheon.

Holmes should have sewn the tie up for Saints as he was presented with two chances. The first saw his shot well saved by

Forde, before Lambert picked him out with a brilliant far post cross that begged to be put in the net but he missed the target.

Bialkowski was the first player in the book for time wasting as Saints tried to run down the clock to secure the win.

Hackett had another shot on 85 minutes but Bialkowski got down to his right to make the save.

But the goal that had been on the cards for Millwall from the start of the game did eventual-

ly come with three minutes remaining. Millwall got a ball in from the left, Henderson was backed on to Dan Harding, took a touch to control and then turned and volleyed in one movement with his left foot to beat Bialkowski low to his left into the bottom corner.

N'Guessan forced Bialkowski into a bit of work moments later as the game had a frantic finish.

But it ended level with a replay, provisionally booked for Tuesday, February 6, at St Mary's to come.

Adkins unfazed by unwanted FA Cup replay

NIGEL Adkins was in upbeat mood despite his team facing an unwanted FA Cup fourth round replay. Saints were pegged back by a late Darius Henderson equaliser to ensure they need to try again against Millwall at St Mary's a week on Tuesday.

But Adkins was not too down about it.

"It is what it is - another great game for us," he said.

"I thought it was a good cup tie to be perfectly honest.

"Both teams are in that hat for the draw, which is pleasing for both clubs, and we look forward to the replay."

He added: "I thought it was a good cup tie and a draw was probably a good result.

"When you look at it we conceded a late goal but there were waves of pressure coming in from Millwall and that was what made it a good cup tie. "I thought Rickie Lambert scored a fantastic goal having been out for three games."



SATISFIED: Saints boss Nigel Adkins.



HOLD OFF: Rickie Lambert is closely guarded by the Millwall defence.

All pics by Chris Moorhouse

TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR ALL TODAY'S FA CUP RESULTS

Saints Spotlight

The highs and highs of the season so far

SAINTS have spent almost the entire 2011/12 season in the Championship automatic promotion slots.

But they will fall out of the top two if they are beaten by League Cup finalists Cardiff City at St Mary's next Tuesday.

Here, the *Sports Pink* examines how the Championship season has progressed.

AUGUST 28 2011

Saints' defeat against Leicester knocked them off top spot and allowed Brighton to overtake them.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
SAINTS	5	4	0	1	12	6	12
Derby County	5	4	0	1	8	3	12
Middlesbrough	5	3	2	0	10	5	11
West Ham United	5	3	1	1	11	4	10
Crystal Palace	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Cardiff City	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Blackpool	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
Peterborough United	5	2	1	2	12	8	7
Leicester City	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Millwall	5	1	3	1	6	5	6
Portsmouth	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Hull City	5	2	0	3	3	6	6
Ipswich Town	5	2	0	3	8	14	6
Burnley	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Barnsley	5	1	2	2	3	5	5
Bristol City	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Nottingham Forest	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Leeds United	5	1	1	3	8	9	4
Reading	5	1	1	3	5	6	4
Birmingham City	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Watford	5	0	3	2	4	9	3
Coventry City	5	0	2	3	2	5	2
Doncaster Rovers	5	0	1	4	2	8	1

SEPTEMBER 28 2011

Saints are back on top, with the top three all locked together on the same amount of points.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAINTS	9	6	1	2	21	12	19
Middlesbrough	9	5	4	0	13	5	19
Derby County	9	6	1	2	14	7	19
West Ham United	9	5	2	2	16	8	17
Brighton	9	5	2	2	15	11	17
Cardiff City	9	4	4	1	12	8	16
Hull City	9	4	2	3	7	8	14
Peterborough United	9	4	1	4	17	13	13
Crystal Palace	9	4	1	4	12	10	13
Blackpool	9	3	4	2	11	9	13
Leicester City	9	3	4	2	9	9	13
Ipswich Town	9	4	1	4	12	16	13
Leeds United	8	3	2	3	16	15	11
Reading	9	3	2	4	11	11	11
Watford	9	2	4	3	9	12	10
Burnley	8	2	3	3	12	12	9
Portsmouth	9	2	3	4	10	12	9
Barnsley	9	1	6	2	7	9	9
Birmingham City	7	2	2	3	10	12	8
Nottingham Forest	9	2	2	5	9	18	8
Coventry City	9	1	4	4	7	11	7
Millwall	9	1	4	4	7	13	7
Bristol City	9	1	3	5	8	15	6
Doncaster Rovers	9	1	2	6	4	13	5

OCTOBER 20 2011

Saints' gap over the third placed team is now six points.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAINTS	14	9	3	2	31	14	30
West Ham United	14	8	3	3	26	13	27
Crystal Palace	14	7	3	4	18	12	24
Middlesbrough	14	6	6	2	16	11	24
Derby County	14	7	3	4	20	17	24
Hull City	13	7	3	3	13	11	24
Leeds United	14	6	4	4	25	20	22
Birmingham City	12	6	3	3	18	13	21
Cardiff City	14	5	6	3	24	20	21
Brighton	14	5	4	5	17	16	20
Ipswich Town	14	6	2	6	19	24	20
Peterborough	14	6	1	7	28	25	19
Blackpool	14	5	4	5	20	19	19
Leicester City	14	5	4	5	17	17	19
Burnley	13	5	3	5	18	17	18
Reading	14	4	6	4	15	14	18
Millwall	14	3	6	5	16	17	15

Portsmouth	14	4	3	7	16	18	15
Barnsley	14	3	6	5	15	18	15
Nottingham Forest	14	4	2	8	14	24	14
Watford	14	3	4	7	14	25	13
Coventry City	14	2	6	6	11	17	12
Doncaster Rovers	14	2	3	9	9	23	9
Bristol City	14	2	3	9	11	26	9

NOVEMBER 29 2011

Saints are now a whopping EIGHT points clear of third placed Cardiff City.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAINTS	19	13	3	3	42	20	42
West Ham United	19	12	4	3	35	15	40
Cardiff City	19	9	7	3	33	22	34
Middlesbrough	19	8	8	3	23	17	32
Leeds United	19	9	4	6	33	28	31
Leicester City	19	8	5	6	26	20	29
Brighton	19	8	5	6	22	21	29
Blackpool	19	7	6	6	30	25	27
Reading	19	7	6	6	23	21	27
Hull City	18	6	3	7	19	20	27
Birmingham City	16	7	5	4	23	18	26
Crystal Palace	18	7	5	6	18	17	26
Peterborough	19	7	3	9	36	34	24
Burnley	19	7	3	9	29	29	24
Barnsley	18	6	6	6	21	22	24
Derby County	19	7	3	9	23	29	24
Millwall	19	5	7	7	23	22	22
Watford	19	5	6	8	19	28	21
Portsmouth	18	5	5	8	20	21	20
Bristol City	19	5	5	9	20	30	20
Ipswich Town	18	6	2	10	25	37	20
Nottingham Forest	19	6	2	11	18	34	20
Coventry City	19	2	7	10	16	29	13
Doncaster Rovers	19	3	4	12	15	33	13

DECEMBER 31 2011

Saints are still top after losing at home to Bristol City, but the chasing pack are getting closer.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAINTS	24	14	5	5	47	25	47
Middlesbrough	24	12	9	3	30	20	45
West Ham United	24	13	5	6	39	23	44
Cardiff City	24	11	9	4	38	26	42
Reading	24	11	6	7	31	22	39
Hull City	24	12	3	9	26	24	39
Burnley	24	11	3	10	36	31	36
Crystal Palace	24	10	6	8	23	22	36
Blackpool	24	9	7	7	34	32	34
Leeds United	24	10	5	9	37	35	35
Derby County	24	10	4	10	29	33	34
Birmingham City	22	9	6	7	30	24	33
Barnsley	24	9	6	9	35	36	33
Leicester City	24	8	8	8	31	27	32
Peterborough	24	9	5	10	43	40	32
Brighton	24	9	5	10	23	28	32
Watford	24	7	9	8	27	32	30
Portsmouth	23	7	7	9	25	25	28
Ipswich Town	23	8	3	12	33	44	27
Millwall	24	6	8	10	24	27	26
Bristol City	24	6	6	12	22	34	24
Nottingham Forest	24	6	3	15	18	38	21
Coventry City	24	4	7	13	20	33	19
Doncaster Rovers	24	5	4	15	20	43	19

JANUARY 23 2012

Saints' defeat against Leicester – isn't this where we started? – keeps them three points adrift of new leaders West Ham.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Ham United	27	16	5	6	43	24	53
SAINTS	27	15	5	7	50	30	50
Cardiff City	27	13	10	4	44	29	49
Middlesbrough	27	12	9	6	31	28	45
Hull City	27	14	3	10	28	25	45
Birmingham City	26	12	7	7	42	26	43
Blackpool	27	11	9	7	43	34	42
Reading	27	12	6	9	34	27	42
Leeds United	27	12	6	9	43	38	42
Brighton	27	12	5	10	30	29	41
Derby County	27	12	5	10	31	33	41
Burnley	27	12	4	11	39	33	40
Leicester City	27	10	8	9	36	30	38
Crystal Palace	27	10	7	10	26	27	37
Barnsley	27	10	6	11	38	42	36
Peterborough	27	9	6	12	45	44	33
Portsmouth	26	8	7	11	29	39	31
Watford	27	7	9	11	28	39	30
Bristol City	27	8	6	13	25	37	30
Millwall	27	7	8	12	27	35	29
Ipswich Town	27	8	4	15	38	54	28
Nottingham Forest	27	7	3	17	22	44	24
Doncaster Rovers	27	6	5	16	23	45	23
Coventry City	27	5	7	15	23	36	22

In from the give Punch



INSTANT THREAT: Rickie Lambert, above, marked his comeback for Saints with an FA Cup goal at Millwall.

All pics by Chris Moorhouse.



EFFORT: Steve De Ridder sees his shot deflected wide.

Gordon Simpson

gordon.simpson@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS REPORTER

IT was the return of the forgotten men for Saints at Millwall today.

Jason Puncheon, Lee Barnard and Radhi Jaidi, three players that you might reasonably have expected to never be involved in the first-team again, were suddenly back in the thick of it.

Of the trio, Puncheon certainly appeared to have the dimmest future at St Mary's.

Ostracised from the first team for more than a year, he appeared to put the final nail in his Saints coffin with a well-publicised Twitter rant against chairman Nicola Cortese last week.

Yet that incredibly led to a face-to-face meeting between the two that ended with the winger being restored to the first team.

It was a dramatic U-turn that no one saw coming – and had Saints not needed to strengthen out wide this January it is one that probably wouldn't have happened.

It did, though, and it resulted in Puncheon starting this afternoon's fourth round tie – just over a year after his last Saints appearance.

The likelihood is that the midfielder's relationship with the club's hierarchy, and perhaps with the fans too, will continue to be a fragile one.

He will certainly need to perform well.

Having played only 15 minutes of first-team football this season during an unsuccessful loan spell at QPR, it was always going to be a challenge for him to have much impact out wide at the Den.

But, while clearly not at his sharpest, he offered some bright moments and couldn't be accused of a lack of work ethic.

His thoughtful pass late in the first half released Dean Hammond for a breakaway that Saints should have done far better with.

And he produced a clever piece of skill to nutmeg Jack Smith in the second half before scampering down the left-hand side.

Puncheon offered enough that he received a standing ovation from many of the Saints fans when he was substituted late in the game, for debutant Luke Shaw.

Another Saint making his first start

SAINTS STATS - SEE PAGE 12

Saints Spotlight

cold – fans
warm hand

BACK IN ACTION: Lee Barnard and Jason Puncheon, left, both figured for Saints at Millwall after lengthy spells out of the side.

All pics by Chris Moorhouse.

of the season was Lee Barnard.

The striker has been plagued by a serious ankle injury all season, limiting him to just five substitute appearances.

The last of those was during December's 1-0 defeat at Doncaster.

With Tadanari Lee having since arrived, and Nigel Adkins on the lookout for another striker before Tuesday's transfer deadline, it looked as if Barnard was at risk of being phased out of the picture. But he was given an opportunity to impress today alongside Rickie Lambert, back from a three-game suspension.

It certainly wasn't Barnard's most memorable afternoon, with no opportunity falling his way. But he worked hard and was a nuisance to the Millwall backline until he was taken off after an hour.

Also back in the first-team fold was centre-half Jaidi, who had not played all season. The giant Tunisian defender had been out since the summer with a knee injury, but was fit enough

to earn a place on the bench at Millwall.

With the 36-year-old having already hinted this will be his last year before retiring, it was looking increasingly likely that things might already be over for him. But his return has come at an appropriate time, with Saints having suffered something of an injury crisis at the heart of defence.

Jose Fonte has missed the last six games with a toe problem, although he could return on Tuesday for the crucial clash with promotion rivals Cardiff at St Mary's.

And Jos Hooiveld is a major doubt for the upcoming fixtures, after suffering a hamstring problem in last Monday's 2-0 home defeat to Leicester.

With Dan Seaborne still on the way back from a serious head injury, that left Aaron Martin as the only centre-back fit enough to start at the Den. Even so, there was no opportunity for Jaidi to get on the pitch, as he was left on the bench for the whole match,

But the Saints fans were more concerned with the new face up front than the ones missing or returning at the back, though.

And, in the 62nd minute, they finally got their first glimpse of Japan international striker Lee, as he replaced Barnard, after receiving his instructions from Adkins via a translator on the sidelines.

Despite holding a 1-0 lead when he arrived, Saints were struggling to create anything of note.

And that made it something of a chore for Lee to get into the game.

There were plenty of intelligent runs and a desire to get the ball, but it rarely came his way.

When it did, his control was not always especially assured, although, having only landed in England a few days ago, it was optimistic to expect too much from him today.

Time will be needed before anyone can judge exactly what kind of player Saints have acquired.

Maybe Jason
won't be the
next Delgado

NOT since Agustin Delgado, it seems, has the *Southern Daily Echo* and *Sports Pink* used up all so many column inches on a Saints player who so infrequently plays for the club as Jason Puncheon.

Out of favour since the autumn of 2010, the winger this week was remarkably welcomed back into the first team fold.

The U-turn came just a few days after Puncheon hit out at chairman Nicola Cortese on his Twitter account.

Puncheon claimed he had no problems with boss Nigel Adkins, and it was only because of Cortese that he was training with the youth team following his return from an unproductive loan spell at QPR.

That followed far more successful loan spells with Millwall and Blackpool last season.

Looking in from the outside, it seemed very strange that Saints could not accommodate a man who was holding his own in the Premiership, at Blackpool, while the rest of his St Mary's colleagues were in the third tier.

As with all these situations, the real truth will probably never emerge.

An *Echo* online poll in the wake of the Twitter outburst this week asked fans whether their sympathies lay with the player, or had Saints acted properly throughout the whole sorry charade and, in fact, it was Puncheon who should shoulder the blame.

From well over 1,000 responses, over half of the fans – possibly unsurprisingly – sided with the club.

That, to me, was a big surprise.

While it's only natural, of course, for supporters to always toe the party line of their club, fans were making their minds up on a subject where both sides of the story had not been made public.

In fact, neither side of the story had been made public.

So what do we make of Jason Puncheon, then?

At 25, he should be approaching the prime years of his career.

Yet he never made an impact at Plymouth after Paul Sturrock signed him for the then Championship club in the summer of 2008.

He was quickly sent on loan to MK Dons, and liked it so much he had three loan spells there.

Simon Carter

simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS EDITOR

At the time it was suggested that south Londoner Puncheon was homesick, and certainly Milton Keynes is nearer the capital than Plymouth.

But Southampton is a lot closer to London as well, and the player has never set St Mary's alight as everyone hoped he would following his £250,000 arrival two years ago.

Puncheon scored in his fourth and fifth games for Saints, in 5-1 and 5-0 home wins over Walsall and Huddersfield within four days of each other in March 2010.

It was the start, we all thought, of an impressive Saints career.

But no.

Only one more goal has followed in his last 31 league and cup outings, in another five-goal win – at Bristol Rovers in April 2010.

Despite that barren run, Puncheon belted five goals in seven Championship games for Millwall last season, including a hat-trick against Crystal Palace that earned ex-Saints boss George Burley the sack.

Puncheon also scored on his Premiership debut for Blackpool, against Everton, and a few games later netted against Chelsea.

All this made his erasing from Saints' first team scene incredibly hard to fathom, certainly if it's true that he's never had a problem with Adkins.

Whatever the inside story of his sudden emergence from the shadows at St Mary's, it is good to see

Puncheon back.

He gives Saints another wide option, and a goalscoring one as well.

Jason Puncheon has shown he can perform in the top flight, even though he has spent most of his career in the third and fourth tiers.

He still has many potentially good years ahead of him – as do many of Adkins' squad – and how great it would be if he could spend them with Saints in the Premier League.

And, hopefully, at least now we can concentrate on talking about him because of what he can do on the field.

We rarely had that luxury with Delgado.



TURN TO PAGES 14-17 FOR SAINTS NOSTALGIA

Sports Quiz

- 1 Who is the new Hull KR captain for 2012?
- 2 Who is the manager of Notts County?
- 3 For which club does Brian O'Driscoll play his rugby?
- 4 Who has won more snooker world titles than any other player?
- 5 Which darts player is known as 'The Machine'?
- 6 Arsenal signed Andrey Arshavin from which club in 2009?
- 7 How many ATP Tour singles titles has Japan's Kei Nishikori won?
- 8 Matt Hopper plays for which Aviva Premiership side?
- 9 In which county is Newton Abbot racecourse?
- 10 Which sport is played at Candlestick Park?
- 11 El Madrigal is home to which Spanish football club?
- 12 Daniel Ricciardo and Jean-Eric Vergne will drive for which Formula One team this year?
- 13 Tennis player Bernard Tomic was born in which country?
- 14 Wes Welker plays as wide receiver for which NFL team?
- 15 The inaugural Youth Winter Olympics, which concluded yesterday, took place in which city?
- 16 Striker Asamoah Gyan plays for which national side?
- 17 Pakistan bowler Umar Gul represented which county side last year?
- 18 Which Aviva Premiership side play their home games at the Madejski Stadium?
- 19 Name the two losing teams in the NFL Conference Championships?
- 20 Sam Tomkins plays for which Super League team?
- 21 Which of the following players is not in England's RBS 6 Nations squad - Phil Dowson, Danny Care or David Strettle?
- 22 Who manages League Two side Southend?
- 23 How old is England spinner Monty Panesar?
- 24 Who is the reigning women's singles champion at the Australian Open?
- 25 American Chris Finch is the coach of Great Britain in which sport?
- 26 The Super Eagles is the nickname of which African country's national football team?
- 27 Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a resort most commonly associated with which sport?
- 28 Lambeau Field is the home of which NFL franchise?
- 29 In snooker, who is the reigning UK champion?
- 30 Which grand prix circuit features the Stavelot and Blanchimont corners?



TOMIC

Answers

- 30 Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium); 29 Judd Trump; 28 Green Bay Packers; 27 Alpine skiing; 26 Baskerville; 25 Nigeria; 24 Kim Clijsters; 23 Sturrock; 22 Danny Care; 21 Paul Wigan; 20 Ravens and San Francisco 49ers; 19 Baltimore; 18 London Irish; 17 Ghanai; 16 Garmisch-Partenkirchen; 15 Germany; 14 New England Patriots; 13 Dallas; 12 Toro Rosso; 11 Villarreal; 10 American football; 9 Devon; 8 Zenit St Petersburg; 7 One; 6 Stephen Hendry; 5 James Wade; 4 Ben Galea; 3 Martin Allen; 2 Ben Galea; 1 Ben Galea.



What more can go wrong down at Fratton Park



THEY say a week is a long time in politics. In football, it can be an eternity.

In the space of just seven short days Saints have gone three points behind West Ham, Portsmouth had a prospective new owner, he backs out at the last minute, they receive a winding up order from the Inland Revenue, only for the man who backed out to show interest again...

You couldn't make it up...

The truth is that Portsmouth are beyond a joke right now.

Football fans as a breed are a forgiving lot and, any rivalries aside, they'll look to stand by any club should they face financial woe.

You only have to look at Darlington and the way the footballing community put an arm around them to see just how football fans pull together in times of need.

Extinction

But this isn't the first time Portsmouth have faced extinction, is it?

For most of us with anything resembling a brain, the thought that Pompey could not be wound up for not paying taxes, after getting away with it the last time, is just mind boggling.

You can imagine the scenes at Chateau Portsmouth. Just months after effectively getting away with blue murder, a young clerk tugs at

the shirt of his Portsmouth Football Club executive boss.

"Sir, Sir, what do I do with this tax demand from the Inland Revenue?" "Just put it in that pile over there, son. Now onto important matters, Liam Lawrence and Dave Kitson's wages..."

It just beggars belief that any business can find themselves in trouble with the Inland Revenue yet again, so soon after dodging the last bullet.

Yet we're supposed to feel sympathy for them, poor old Pompey.

But the harsh truth is that for any Saints fan discussing any local rivalry issue with any Pompey fan and you'll immediately get "4-1 in your own back yard" and "We're the most successful club on the south coast."

It's hard to feel any sympathy for a set of fans so disassociated with reality as Pompey fans.

I may be in a minority of one but can anyone please tell me how Portsmouth FC and CSI are not inextricably linked?

Surely the moment Portsmouth became CSI's only "solvent" asset then the two became inextricably linked? Surely?

Just what do Portsmouth need to do to get points deducted?

It becomes all the more galling when you remember the indecent glee that the Football League took in deducting points from Southampton.

They couldn't wait to kick us on the way down.

Not so Portsmouth, who seem to

live a charmed life.

Far be it for me to suggest that the Football League are petrified at the prospect of Portsmouth folding, and thus demolishing the "integrity" of the League.

But it's hard to argue against the fact that Portsmouth seem to get chance after chance after chance when most clubs would have been handed record points deductions.

If the reports that Joseph Cala is back in the frame to buy Portsmouth, then the sad truth is Pompey have lost their final chance for redemption.

This is a man who reportedly wanted to buy Pompey because Pompey sounds like Pompeii and he's Italian.

He'd carry more credence if he said he was a massive Frankie Howard fan and loved the 'Up Pompeii' films.

The only way forward for Pompey was to go out of business.

Rid yourself of the people that have dragged your football club into the sewers, and start again.

You only have to look at the fondness football fans have for AFC Wimbledon to see how fans react to those that struggle against adversity and carry the fight on.

Since 2002, AFC Wimbledon have defied the odds to stake a place in the Football League.

Who is to say AFC Portsmouth couldn't do the same?

Instead they carry on trying to avoid the inevitable, try avoiding to pay the small businesses, avoid pay-

ing the tax man and avoid keeping just the smallest part of their dignity.

If they avoid the winding up order, any purchaser would need to provide £12m as proof of funds, and assurances they could meet another £20m in repayments to former creditors, Balam Chainrai and Alexandre Gaydamak.

That's £32 million just to tread water.

You could double that to get the club on an even keel, let alone move forward.

In short, there comes a time in when you've just got to bite the bullet and do the right thing.

Stop avoiding what you owe, stop dragging the good name of the game down with you.

Just do the right thing. There is life after administration. You only have to look at Saints to see that when you've reached rock bottom, the only way is back up.

League 2

Saints faced life in League 2 after starting the 2009/2010 season on -10 points.

Today they stand in the Championship promotion places, serious contenders for the Premier League.

It can be done... But not lying, cheating, squealing and doing your level best to avoid what you owe.

Pay up, Pompey

EMAIL YOUR VIEWS ON SAINTS TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



Case for a seasoned pro...

HAVING watched Saints for the first time in a while, I believe they could do with a Jimmy Case.

They have had a fabulous season until now and blips are inevitable.

But I thought it was an insipid display against Leicester City on Monday night.

They looked like they were in need of a seasoned pro or two

to shake them out of their lethargy.

Once Leicester went in front they never looked like getting a result.

It looked to me as though a Jimmy Case-like character was needed to rattle their cages and drive them on.

To be fair, it is the first time I've seen them for a while and I know they've been outstanding

at home for the most part this season.

I never like to be negative about a Saints team, especially one that has done so well this season.

But they could have done with someone to stir things up and motivate them to drive on and get the win.

They did not have that in their locker against Leicester.



SAINTS STRONGMAN: Case.

Balotelli has the stamp of a liability for Mancini

LET's not beat about the bush, Mario Balotelli's late stamp on Scott Parker was deliberate and malicious.

The Football Association was quite right to charge him for violent conduct, ensuring a four-game suspension accepted by Manchester City.

Balotelli, on as a substitute, had already been booked for a foul when the incident with Parker occurred.

I covered the game in the Supersport studios in South Africa and, despite initially thinking it was a collision, changed my mind when I saw the replays.

I've reviewed the incident several times to assess referee Howard Webb's position.

Webb's eyes had followed ball and his natural instinct at the point of contact was to return to the fallen bodies.

He was a split second late to see the stamp, vindicating the lack of action.

But it is a shame this outstanding contest between two of the country's best sides should be marred by another refereeing debate rather than the excellent display by both sides. Added to the drama was the late penalty conceded by Spurs when who else but Balotelli was fouled by a desperate Ledley King.

The fact the volatile Italian calmly stroked the ball home did nothing to placate Spurs manager Harry Redknapp. His opinion was that Balotelli should not have been on the field in the first place.

So where does that leave City and the exasperated Roberto Mancini?

Firstly, without Balotelli for a four-game spell that began with

VICTIM : Mario Balotelli wins a penalty as Tottenham's Ledley King brings him down.



the Carling Cup semi-final second leg at Liverpool on Wednesday.

Balotelli will also miss Premier League games against Everton, Fulham and Aston Villa.

Mancini's relationship with Balotelli is like a father and son but how does the manager defend his behaviour to the owners?

Did he sit them down prior to his signing to explain the baggage that came with the striker

before spending £24m on him?

Many of us were suspicious, bearing in mind the boss at Inter Milan was Jose Mourinho – a manager I rate very highly. If he could not get the youngster to play and behave correctly, who can?

Being Italian, Mancini has an advantage but as the myths and facts regarding Balotelli scramble up, one is not sure what to believe.

Is he as talented as Mancini

would have you believe? I have my reservations.

For me, Sergio Aguero's 14 goals have been the highlight of City's season.

How Mancini handles his combustible youngster remains to be seen.

Being loyal is admirable but if City do not win the Premier League, fingers will be pointed at a manager who persisted with a player we thought amusing but who may now be a liability.

Top bosses don't escape the criticism

TWO Premier League managers came under pressure this week after indifferent performances and results – and they are not relegation candidates.

Kenny Dalglish and Arsene Wenger are both men who have had better weeks. Liverpool's performance at Bolton was, in Dalglish's opinion, their poorest since his return.

He warned afterwards that a repeat would see players on their way.

It seems a long time since the Kop faithful were thrilled at his return and convinced the glory days would return.

Well, £112m later and Liverpool are languishing in seventh.

They look like a team that, despite massive investment, has stood still.

On our Monday night show I asked Efan Ekoku, the former Wimbledon striker, how long it would be before supporters show their displeasure at results.

After all, a number of the players on show at Bolton were bought by Dalglish.

His reputation is also there to be questioned. Reaching the Carling Cup final is some consolation but the dropping of points at

home to struggling teams leaves the team well short of a top-four finish – the least the American owners would have expected.

Arsene Wenger must also be feeling the pressure.

Cries of 'you don't know what you're doing' rang out at the Emirates last Sunday, from Arsenal fans who believed Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's substitution was a massive blunder.

It handed the points to Manchester United, when the ex-Saints youngster had laid on the equaliser for Robin van Persie.

The Ox had been impressive in his first Premier League start, when he was replaced by a player who has turned in many lacklustre displays this season.

Wenger's situation was not helped by a close-up of Van Persie shouting 'no' in an attempt to stop the substitution being made.

The fact Arsenal have now lost three successive games for the first time in five years and have their worst total at this stage of any of Wenger's 15 seasons, will give fans some hope this could be their year in the FA Cup. But don't count on it.



TAKEN OFF : Arsenal talent Oxlade-Chamberlain.

CHAMPIONSHIP INS AND OUTS

BARNSELEY

In:
Chris Dagnall (Scunthorpe) ... Undisclosed
Korey Smith (Norwich) ... Loan
Michael Tonge (Stoke) ... Loan
Out:
Kern Miller (Hereford) ... Loan
Danny Haynes (Charlton) ... Loan

BIRMINGHAM

In:
None
Out:
Jake Jervis (Preston) ... Loan
Akwas Asante (Northampton) ... Loan
Jean Beausejour (Wigan) ... Undisclosed

BRIGHTON

In:
Ben Dickenson (Dorchester) ... Undisclosed
David Gonzalez ... Released
Out:
Michael Poke (Bristol Rovers) ... Loan
Steve Cook (Bournemouth) ... Undisclosed

BRISTOL CITY

In:
Chris Wood (West Brom) ... Loan
Stephen Pearson (Derby) ... Free
Richard Foster (Aberdeen) ... £250,000
Out:
Damion Stewart (Notts County) ... Loan
Marlon Jackson (Telford) ... Loan
Joe Edwards (Yeovil) ... Loan
Christian Ribeiro (Scunthorpe) ... Loan
Jamie McAllister (Preston) ... Loan

BLACKPOOL

In:
Danny Wilson (Liverpool) ... Loan
Out:
Daniel Bogdanovic (Rochdale) ... Loan
Brett Ormerod (Rochdale) ... Loan
Bojan Djordjic ... Released
Miguel Llera (Sh Wednesday) ... Undisclosed

BURNLEY

In:
Kieran Trippier (Man City) ... Undisclosed
Josh McQuoid (Millwall) ... Loan
Out:
Joe Jackson (Barrow) ... Loan
Alex-Ray Harvey (Barrow) ... Loan
Leon Cort ... Released

CARDIFF

In:
Elliot Parish (Aston Villa) ... Undisclosed
Out:
Solomon Taiwo (Leyton Orient) ... Loan

COVENTRY

In:
Herman Hreidarsson (Portsmouth) ... Free
Alex Nimely (Manchester City) ... Loan
Out:
Lukas Jutkiewicz (Middlesbrough) ... £1.3m
James McPake (Hibernian) ... Loan

CRYSTAL PALACE

In:
Paul McShane (Hull) ... Loan
Mustapha Dumbuya (Doncaster) ... Loan
John Egan (Sunderland) ... Loan
Out:
Wes Foderingham (Swindon) ... Undisclosed
Keiron Cadogan (Rotherham) ... Loan

DERBY

In:
Ryan Noble (Sunderland) ... Loan
Tom Naylor (Mansfield) ... Undisclosed
Out:
Stephen Pearson (Bristol City) ... Free
David Martin (Southend) ... Undisclosed
Stephen Bywater (Sh Wednesday) ... Free
Lee Croft (St Johnstone) ... Loan
Tomasz Cwyka (Reading) ... Free

DONCASTER

In:
Sam McMahon (Rangers) ... Undisclosed
David Button (Spurs) ... Loan
Out:
Mustapha Dumbuya (Crystal Palace) ... Loan
Dean Shiels (Kilmarnock) ... Free

HULL

In:
Trevor Carson (Sunderland) ... Loan
Joshua King (Man United) ... Loan
Vito Mannone (Arsenal) ... Loan
Out:
Sonny Bradley (Aldershot) ... Loan
Matty Mainwaring (Stockport) ... Loan
Paul McShane (Crystal Palace) ... Loan
Will Atkinson (Bradford) ... Loan

● Continued on opposite page

Saints Spotlight

Gordon Simpson

gordon.simpson@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS REPORTER

ONLY a handful of days remain for the Championship's promotion contenders to strengthen their squads for the run-in.

The January transfer window shuts at 11pm on Tuesday, ending the major business for the season.

That leaves little time for teams to make the all-important additions that might mean the difference between the Premier League and another campaign in the second tier.

Some clubs have been more successful than others at bringing in new blood so far this month.

But most of the top sides in the division, at least at the time of writing, are still looking to bring in new players.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at who wants what, and which players clubs are chasing.

SAINTS

There have been two arrivals at St Mary's already this month.

Spanish attacking midfielder Yago Falque joined until the end of the season from Spurs, while Japan striker Tadanari Lee completed his move from J.League side Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

But Saints still have business that they want to attend to.

Manager Nigel Adkins has made no secret that he wants to sign yet another striker.

Celtic's Gary Hooper was his prime target, but despite submitting a pair of bids the Glasgow side have refused to sell one of the top scorers in the Scottish League.

With League One hotshot Jordan Rhodes likely to be unmoveable from Huddersfield this month, and previous target Lukas Jutkiewicz already having left Coventry for Middlesbrough, the options are beginning to narrow.

Doncaster's Billy Sharp, who Saints a few weeks ago appeared to have no interest in signing, after the player turned them down in the summer, has once again been linked with a move to St Mary's.

The word from Rovers is that there is serious doubt he will be at the club in February, but nothing firm has emerged on that from a Southampton perspective.

Saints – along with most other clubs, it seems – also still appear to have no real desire to make a bid for Bristol City's Nicky Maynard, who has been made available for sale, with his contract due to run out in the summer.

Any need to strengthen out wide has been reduced by the arrival of Falque and also the surprise reintroduction of Jason Puncheon into the first team this week.

But Adkins is still understood to be on the lookout for a new centre half, with first-choice pairing Jose Fonte and Jos Hooiveld both injury concerns.

WEST HAM

When it comes to the Hammers' transfer dealings this January, it has mainly been all talk rather than action.

Their only signing of any note so far is FC Dallas defender George

JANUARY SALES

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY: Yago Falque, below, has joined Saints on loan but Jordan Rhodes, bottom centre, looks like staying at Huddersfield.



STAYING OR GOING?
Billy Sharp.

John, who nearly joined Blackburn for more than £1m last summer.

But the Championship leaders have been linked with players left, right and centre – particularly strikers, including Jordan Rhodes and even non league Fleetwood Town top scorer Jamie Vardy.



Their latest target has been Rangers forward Nikica Jelavic, although they are yet to agree a deal with the Glasgow side.

The Hammers have also been linked with pretty much every forward player whose name has appeared in the gossip columns this month.

So it is pretty clear where boss Sam Allardyce wants to strengthen.

As yet, though, he has been unable to get his man.

CARDIFF

It's been quite a month for the Bluebirds on the pitch, with Malky Mackay's side reaching the Carling Cup final.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE TRANSFER WINDOW -

Saints Spotlight

TO REALLY HOT UP

STRIKE TARGETS: Jason Roberts, below right, has joined Reading while West Ham are keen on Nikica Jelavic, bottom.



But away from the playing surface, it has been pretty quiet.

The division's third-placed team have turned Aston Villa keeper Elliot Parish's loan deal into a permanent move, but that has been it.

The Bluebirds have made efforts to sign Brighton

winger Craig Noone, but have so far been unable to prise him away from Albion's grasp.

And they have also had a bid rejected for Blackpool's highly-rated wideman Matt Phillips.

MIDDLESBROUGH
They may have only made

one signing so far this month, but it was a pretty significant one, picking up Coventry's highly-rated forward Lukas Jutkiewicz. Saints had hoped



to sign the Southampton-born player in November, on an initial emergency loan deal, but failed. Middlesbrough were also interested at that time, but again couldn't arrange anything. Yet manager Tony

Mowbray was finally able to get his man this month, as he hopes to add enough firepower to lift Boro from their current position of fourth into the automatic promotion places.

Mowbray had been linked with a move for Jason Puncheon, before he sorted his St Mary's future.

He is also rumoured to have looked at Wolves defender George Elokobi, while he is said to be keen on adding another midfielder to his squad.

HULL

The Tigers have made a couple of loan signings already, bringing in Arsenal keeper Vito Mannone, Sunderland keeper Trevor Carson and Manchester United striker Joshua King.

But it appears that will be it for the fifth-placed side, with manager Nicky Barmby insisting he has little intention of spending any cash and is confident his squad is already good enough to win promotion.

BIRMINGHAM

The Blues have been on fire recently, but in the transfer market things have been very cool.

Chris Hughton hasn't made any new signings at all yet, and with the way Birmingham are currently going, he perhaps has little need to.

But Hughton has already revealed that he would like to make at least one loan signing, with a new striker his main priority.

BLACKPOOL

Ian Holloway is another manager who has been quiet this month, with Rangers midfielder John Fleck's loan arrival the only bit of business he has done.

Like seemingly everyone else, Pool have been looking for a new striker, and have been linked with Swansea's Steven Dobbie.

READING

After receiving new investment this month, the Royals have been given cash to spend – and they have been quick to go shopping.

Blackburn striker Jason Roberts and Derby forward Tomasz Cywka both signed for the club on Thursday.

Roberts, who was 34 earlier this week, has bagged over 150 senior league and cup goals in a career which began at Bristol Rovers in the mid 1990s.

The pair followed in the footsteps of Shamrock Rovers frontman Karl Sheppard, who joined earlier this month.

Reading are also hoping to sign Brentford centre half Karleigh Osborne.

CHAMPIONSHIP INS AND OUTS

James Harper (Wycombe) Loan

IPSWICH

In: Alex McCarthy (Reading) Loan

Out: Ivar Ingimarsson Released
Ronan Murray (Swindon) Loan

LEEDS

In: Robbie Rogers (Unattached) Free
Danny Pugh (Stoke) Undisclosed
Andros Townsend (Spurs) Loan
Fabian Delph (Aston Villa) Loan

Out: Charlie Taylor (Bradford) Loan
Chris Weale (Northampton) Loan
Ben Parker (Carlisle) Loan
Johnny Howson (Norwich) Undisclosed

LEICESTER

In: Danny Drinkwater (Man Utd) Undisclosed
Nathan Delfouneso (A Villa) Loan

Out: Chris Weale (Northampton) Loan

MIDDLESBROUGH

In: Lukas Jutkiewicz (Coventry) £1.3m

Out: None

MILLWALL

In: Ryan Mason (Spurs) Loan
Harry Kane (Spurs) Loan

Out: Darren Purse (Plymouth) Free
Josh McQuoid (Burnley) Loan

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

In: Marlon Harewood (Unattached) Free

Out: Kieron Freeman (Notts County) Loan

PETERBOROUGH

In: None

Out: Kelvin Langmead (Northampton) Free
Grant Basey (Wycombe) Undisclosed
Scott Griffiths (Rotherham) Loan
Nathan Ralph (Kettering) Loan
Danny Mills (Kettering) Loan

PORTSMOUTH

In: Kelvin Etuhu Released
Dan Thompson (Hampton & R'mond) Free

Out: None

READING

In: Karl Sheppard (Sh Rovers) Undisclosed
Tomasz Cywka (Derby) Free
Jason Roberts (Blackburn) Free

Out:

Alex McCarthy (Ipswich) Loan
Marcus Williams (Sheffield United) Free
Sean Morrison (Huddersfield) Loan

SAINTS

In: Yago Falque (Spurs) Loan
Tadanari Lee (Sanfrecce Hiroshima) £1.8m*

Out: Ryan Dickson (Yeovil) Loan
Ryan Doble (Bury) Loan

WATFORD

In: Nyron Nosworthy (Sunderland) Undisclosed

Out: Piero Mingoa (Brentford) Loan
Gavin Massey (Colchester) Loan

WEST HAM

In: Joe Dixon Released
George John (FC Dallas) Loan

Out: Callum McNaughton (AFC Wimbledon) Free
Ahmed Abdulla (Dagenham) Loan
George Moncur (AFC Wimbledon) Loan
Callum Driver (Burton Albion) Loan
Peter Kurucz (Rochdale) Loan
Eoin Wearen (Dagenham) Loan

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Did You Know?

POMPEY are officially the dirtiest team in the Championship, having clocked up more fouls than anyone else.

But Brighton are still way out in front in terms of bookings with a remarkable 60 – almost double the amount Saints have recorded.

	F	Y	R	P
Portsmouth	316	47	3	1
Millwall	304	43	2	3
Watford	299	33	1	2
Crystal Palace	292	36	1	0
Leeds United	291	40	5	3
Hull City	290	45	1	0
SAINTS	284	33	3	0
Coventry City	283	33	2	2
Brighton	281	60	5	3
Derby County	281	37	1	3
Nottm Forest	281	36	3	1
Reading	266	39	0	1
Barnsley	266	35	1	7
West Ham Utd	264	40	3	1
Leicester City	263	41	5	5
Bristol City	261	41	0	2
Doncaster	254	42	3	3
Ipswich Town	254	34	4	3
Peterborough	252	33	2	2
Middlesbrough	250	46	4	1
Cardiff City	249	32	0	2
Burnley	248	40	2	2
Birmingham	231	33	1	1
Blackpool	207	36	1	0

F=Fouls Committed, Y=Yellow Cards, R=Red Cards, P=Penalties Conceded

BARRY Robson of Middlesbrough has committed more fouls and picked up more bookings than any other Championship player.

	F	Y	R	P
Barry Robson, Mboro	55	11	0	0
Dave Kitson, Portsmouth	50	5	0	0
Mikele Leigertwood, Reading	44	3	0	0
Glenn Murray, Crystal Palace	44	2	0	0
Marvin Elliott, Bristol City	43	1	0	0
Aaron Mclean, Hull City	42	6	0	0
Jonathan Hogg, Watford	42	4	0	0
Darius Henderson, Millwall	41	4	0	0
Hayden Mullins, Portsmouth	40	3	0	0
Jonathan Greening, N Forest	39	2	0	0
Liam Trotter, Millwall	37	4	0	0
Adam Clayton, Leeds United	37	3	0	0
Gary McSheffrey, Coventry	37	1	0	0
Kevin Nolan, West Ham	36	6	0	0
Guly Do Prado, Saints	36	1	0	0
Corry Evans, Hull City	35	5	0	0
George Boyd, Peterborough	35	4	0	0
Jay Rodriguez, Burnley	34	2	0	0
Ian Evatt, Blackpool	32	9	0	0
Wilfried Zaha, Crystal Palace	32	5	0	0
Liam Rosenior, Hull City	32	5	0	0
Luke Varney, Portsmouth	32	4	1	0
Ben Davies, Derby County	32	4	0	0
Rickie Lambert, Saints	32	2	1	0

BIRMINGHAM – Saints' opponents next weekend at St Andrews – are currently top of the Championship form table.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	6	4	2	0	16	3	14
Burnley	6	4	1	1	8	2	13
West Ham Utd	6	4	1	1	7	4	13
Derby County	6	4	1	1	5	2	13
Reading	6	4	0	2	8	5	12
Blackpool	6	3	2	1	10	7	11
Cardiff City	6	3	2	1	10	7	11
Bristol City	6	3	1	2	4	10	10
Coventry City	6	3	0	3	6	4	9
Hull City	6	3	0	3	4	3	9
Brighton	6	3	0	3	7	7	9
Leicester City	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
Peterborough	6	2	2	2	5	8	8
SAINTS	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Leeds United	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Crystal Palace	6	2	1	3	5	7	7
Doncaster	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Middlesbrough	6	2	1	3	6	11	7
Barnsley	6	2	0	4	8	11	6
Millwall	6	2	0	4	4	11	6
Portsmouth	6	1	2	3	6	7	5
Watford	6	1	2	3	6	9	5
Nottm Forest	6	1	1	4	4	8	4
Ipswich Town	6	0	2	4	6	12	2

Saints Spotlight

A far cry from March, 96

SIXTEEN years ago, Cardiff City finished third bottom of the entire Football League.

Only Scarborough and Torquay United were below them in the 1995/96 fourth tier, *writes SIMON CARTER.*

But those two clubs didn't have a 300,000 plus population to draw on, and had never played in the top flight – as the Bluebirds had.

Seemingly a perpetual sleeping giant, Cardiff City seemed set to slumber on.

Yes, the same Cardiff City who this week reached the League Cup final after beating Crystal Palace on penalties – sparking a great celebration led by keeper Tom Heaton, pictured.

The scenes were all a far cry from March 5 1996 when Cardiff could only manage to 'attract' a crowd of 1,611 to rundown Ninian Park for a home league game against Wigan Athletic.

Fast forward to the present day, however, and for several seasons now the club – revitalised and playing in a new 20,000-plus all-seater stadium – has threatened to win promotion back to the top division for the first time since 1962.

Twice in recent seasons they have failed to go up via the play-offs, and in another campaign they were only denied a play-off spot due to a freak 6-0 defeat.

Now they are again right in the automatic promotion mix as they prepare to arrive at St Mary's next Tuesday for a mammoth top of the table clash. Here, the *Sports Pink* looks back at their recent promotion woes.

2006/07

Cardiff, in manager Dave Jones' second season in charge, led the table almost continually from the middle of August through to the end of November.

Even after drawing 2-2 at St Mary's on March 13, they were just outside the play-off zone.

But the Bluebirds tailed off miserably, losing seven of their last eight games and drawing the other to finish 13th.

That was obviously a disappointing finale, but even worse would follow over the course of the next few years.

2008/09

Cardiff were looking towards a possible automatic promotion slot on the morning of April 18 2009.

Dave Jones' men were four points behind second placed Birmingham with a game in hand when they travelled to Preston.

North End had won only one of their last seven games, to slip out of the play-offs to eighth spot.

Preston, who only had three games left, were eight points behind Cardiff, and had an inferior goal difference of minus 18 – Cardiff were plus 22 and North End plus four.

Needless to say, nobody saw Preston's 6-0 annihilation of Jones' Bluebirds coming!

Cardiff then lost two of their last three matches

as well, drawing the other, to miss out on the play-offs by just a single goal.

Amazingly, Preston finished above them after winning their final two games.

Both clubs finished level on 74 points with the same goal difference of plus 12.

But Preston, boosted by that amazing 6-0 win at Deepdale, had scored one more goal.

Had they only thrashed Jones' men 5-0, Cardiff would have been in the play-offs.

2009/10

This was the nearest the Bluebirds have ever flown to the Premiership.

Starting the play-off final against Blackpool as favourites, they were beaten 3-2 in a pulsating Wembley final.

Jones' men twice led through Michael Chopra and Joe Ledley, but ex-Saint Brett Ormerod's winner took the Tangerines through to the promised land instead.

Cardiff had shown blistering form in the regular season at times, thrashing Derby 6-1 at home and Bristol City 6-0 away.

The Bluebirds had only reached Wembley in the first place after a huge scare against Leicester.

After winning the first leg of their semi final 1-0 in the East Midlands – midfielder Peter Whittingham scoring one of his 25 goals for the season – Cardiff led 1-0 in the second leg at home before ending up losing 3-2.

Taken to penalties, Cardiff edged past Nigel Pearson's Foxes 5-3.

But they then lost to a Blackpool side who had finished the season six points and three places behind them.

2010/11

Having spent over half the season in the automatic promotion slots, Jones' men suffered more late-season agony.

Knowing three wins from their last three games would send them up in second place, the Bluebirds avenged their Preston nightmare of two years earlier with a 1-0 win at Deepdale.

But they were then caned 3-0 at home by a mid-table Middlesbrough side who had nothing to play for, and Norwich subsequently went up in second place instead.

Into the lottery of the play-offs again, Cardiff seemed to have done the hard work by drawing 0-0 at Reading in the first leg of their play-off final – only to suffer another shock 3-0 home defeat in the second!

To pour salt into already gaping wounds, Cardiff then had to watch their arch rivals, Swansea, win the play-off final instead.

To no-one's real surprise, Jones paid for this latest promotion failure with the sack.

The former Saints boss had been the Championship's longest serving manager, appointed in May 2005.



DAVE JONES

SAINTS v CARDIFF PREVIEW - SEE TUESDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight

Saints' home rule

SAINTS will be desperate to ensure they keep their superb home record against Cardiff going next Tuesday.

The Bluebirds have not won in Southampton since 1962, and have lost nine and drawn just two of their last 11 league and cup visits.

The Sports Pink looks back at Saints' home rule against the Welsh club.

February 28, 2009
Saints 1 Cardiff 0

An 11th minute David McGoldrick penalty gave Saints victory at St Mary's.

Three Saints from Mark Wotte's side could face the Bluebirds next Tuesday – Kelvin Davis, Adam Lallana and Morgan Schneiderlin – while goalscoring midfielder Peter Whittingham will be Cardiff's sole survivor from three years previous.

October 21, 2007
Saints 1 Cardiff 0

Stern John's 15th minute goal proved the difference.

March 13 2007
Saints 2 Cardiff 2

Saints led 2-0 at half-time thanks to goals from Chris Baird and Bradley Wright-Phillips. Dave Jones' men, though, reduced the arrears through Steven Thompson before Peter Whittingham struck an 85th minute leveller.

April 1 2006
Saints 3 Cardiff 2

A landmark day for Saints defender Claus Lundekvam as he scored only his second ever goal for the club and his first in a home game.

Ironically, his first goal for Saints had also come against a team managed by his former Dell boss Dave Jones – at Wolves in 2004!

The Norwegian's goal put Saints ahead in a game where all the strikes came in the second period.

Cameron Jerome levelled before two goals in five minutes from Ricardo Fuller put George Burley's men in command. Darren Purse grabbed a last-minute consolation.

Oct 4 1995 (League Cup)
Saints 2 Cardiff 1

Saints came from behind to complete a 5-1 aggregate second round victory over a Bluebirds side that would finish the season third bottom of the entire Football League.

After Carl Dale had put Cardiff a half-time lead, Gordon Watson levelled before Richard Hall's winner eight minutes from time.



WINNER: David McGoldrick converts a penalty when Cardiff last played at St Mary's in 2009.



WINNER: Stern John fires Saints' goal against Cardiff in October 2007.

December 26, 1977
Saints 3 Cardiff 1

Saints were ahead in the very first minute through Ted MacDougall, with Phil Boyer and Alan Ball making it 3-0 before a late consolation.

April 22, 1975

Saints 2 Cardiff 0

Defender Mike Berry was given his Saints debut in the final home game of the 1974/75 campaign, where goals from Gerry O'Brien and Mick Channon gave Saints victory over their relegated visitors.

April 20 1966
Saints 3 Cardiff 2

Terry Paine netted twice, including a penalty, as Saints took another massive step towards promotion to the top flight.

Paine fired the hosts ahead before striker Norman Dean

doubled the advantage.

After the Bluebirds had reduced the arrears, Paine netted his second from the penalty spot after Dean was fouled.

The visitors netted again late on.

February 15 1965
Saints 1 Cardiff 1

George O'Brien fired Saints ahead early on with one of his 32 Second Division goals of the season, with Len Allchurch levelling.

Sept 23 (League Cup)
Saints 3 Cardiff 2

George O'Brien's 80th minute winner gave Saints a second round victory at The Dell. They had twice led earlier through George O'Brien and Terry Paine, before City twice levelled.

December 7, 1963
Saints 3 Cardiff 2

Ian White grabbed a 79th minute winner in a game where all the goals came in the second period.

Saints fell behind before Terry Paine levelled from the penalty spot.

George Kirby put Ted Bates' men ahead before it was City's turn to equalise.

Did You Know?

Blues the biggest yo-yo club

IT WAS West Bromwich Albion's fans who, back in the 1990s, grabbed a few headlines with their 'boing, boing' antics.

Bouncing up and down has become a feature of the Baggies' on-field antics in recent times, as they have yo-yoed between the top two divisions.

But it's their West Midlands neighbours, Birmingham City, who have emerged as the king of bouncers.

Saints will find out for themselves just whether the Blues are promotion material when they travel to fortress St Andrews next weekend.

Under Chris Hughton, and now free of Europa League commitments, Birmingham are aiming to win promotion to the Premier



ALL SMILES: Curtis Davies celebrates his goal for Birmingham against Watford last weekend.

League for the fourth time.

Since the start of the 1980/81 season, the Blues have amazing had 13 promotion and relegation campaigns.

Compare that to a club like Saints, who have had three in the same period.

Last season's relegation from the top flight was Birmingham's seventh demotion in the last three decades, while they have gone up six times.

In the same period, Sunderland and Swansea have both had 12 promotion and relegation terms.

The Swans' Championship elevation last term was their seventh since 1980-81 – they had previously gone up as well in 1977/78 and 1978/79 – while they have suffered five relegations.

Sunderland have enjoyed six promotions, while being relegated six times too.

Birmingham's incredible up and down history















1983-84 (Div 1)	.....	Down
1984/85 (Div 2)	.....	Up
1985/86 (Div 1)	.....	Down
1988/89 (Div 2)	.....	Down
1991/92 (Div 3)	.....	Up
1993/94 (Div 2)	.....	Down
1994/95 (Div 3)	.....	Up
2001/02 (Div 2)	.....	Up
2005/06 (Prem)	.....	Down
2006/07 (Cham)	.....	Up
2007/08 (Prem)	.....	Down
2008/09 (Cham)	.....	Up
2010/11 (Prem)	.....	Down

EX-SAINT HAPPY TO MAKE GOOD IMPRESSION - SEE PAGE 30

Saints Spotlight



SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2011/12

																	
AUGUST																	
Sat 6 Leeds	H	W 3-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Martin	Harding	Do Prado**	Hammond*** 1	Cork	Lallana 1	Lambert	Connolly* 1	De Ridder*	Chaplow**	Schneiderlin***
Tues 9 Torquay (CC1)	H	W 4-1	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Seaborne	Martin	Dickson	De Ridder** 1	Chaplow 1	Cork	Holmes*	Lambert 1	Do Prado***	Lallana*	Hammond**	Forte*** 1
Sat 13 Barnsley	A	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana***	Lambert	Connolly** 1	Chaplow*	De Ridder**	Schneiderlin***
Tues 16 Ipswich	A	W 5-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado*	Hammond	Cork	Lallana*** 2	Lambert 2	Connolly** 1	Schneiderlin*	Fox**	De Ridder***
Sat 20 Millwall	H	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding	Do Prado 1	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Connolly***	Schneiderlin*	Fox**	De Ridder***
Sat 27 Leicester	A	L 2-3	Davis	Richardson*	Fonte	Seaborne	Harding*** 1	Do Prado**	Hammond	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly 1	De Ridder**	Fox***	
Tues 30 Swindon (CC2)	A	W 3-1	Bialkowski	Richardson	Seaborne	Martin	Harding	Holmes**	Schneiderlin	Cork	Lallana	Forte* 1	Do Prado*** 1	Lambert* 1	Hammond**	Hoskins***
SEPTEMBER																	
Sat 10 Nottm Forest	H	W 3-2	Davis	Cork	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado*	Hammond	Hammond	Lallana	Lambert 3	Connolly**	Chaplow*	De Ridder**	
Sun 18 Birmingham	H	W 4-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado* 1	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana*** 1	Lambert 1	Connolly	Chaplow* 1	Schneiderlin**	De Ridder***
Wed 21 Preston (CC3)	H	W 2-1	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Martin	Hooiveld** 1	Dickson	De Ridder*	Schneiderlin	Chaplow	Holmes	Reeves	Forte***	Lallana* 1	Fonte**	Lambert***
Sat 24 Burnley	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado*	Hammond***	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly	Chaplow*	Schneiderlin* 1	
Wed 28 Cardiff	A	L 1-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado	Schneiderlin	Cork**	Lallana	Lambert	Connolly*	De Ridder* 1	Chaplow**	
OCTOBER																	
Sat 1 Watford	H	W 4-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana***	Lambert 2	Do Prado 1	Chaplow*	Schneiderlin**	Holmes*** 1
Sat 15 Derby	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson**	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado***	Schneiderlin	Cork	Chaplow*	Lambert 1	Connolly	De Ridder*	Hammond**	Harding***
Tues 18 West Ham	H	W 1-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Fox	Do Prado***	Hammond	Schneiderlin	Chaplow*	Lambert	Connolly**	Harding*	De Ridder***	De Ridder***
Sat 22 Reading	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte*	Hooiveld	Fox	Do Prado***	Hammond	Cork	Chaplow	Lambert	Connolly**	Martin*	De Ridder** 1	Schneiderlin***
Tues 25 Crystal Palace (CC4)	A	L 0-2	Bialkowski	Butterfield	Martin	Cork	Harding	De Ridder	Ward-Prowse	Schneiderlin	Holmes**	Reeves***	Forte*	Barnard*	Lambert**	Do Prado***
Sat 29 Middlesbrough	H	W 3-0	Davis	Butterfield	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond***	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado* 2	Connolly* 1	Schneiderlin**	De Ridder***
NOVEMBER																	
Tues 1 Peterborough	H	W 2-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld 1	Harding	Chaplow*** 1	Hammond	Schneiderlin	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado*	De Ridder*	Connolly**	Cork***
Sat 5 Coventry	A	W 4-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow* 1	Cork	Schneiderlin	Lallana*** 1	Lambert	Do Prado*** 1	Hammond*	De Ridder** 1	Connolly***
Sat 19 Brighton	H	W 3-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert 3	Do Prado***	Schneiderlin*	De Ridder**	Barnard***
Sat 26 Bristol City	A	L 0-2	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	Chaplow	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana**	Lambert	Do Prado***	Schneiderlin*	De Ridder**	Barnard***
Tues 29 Hull	H	W 2-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Harding	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork*	Lallana 1	Lambert**	Do Prado*** 1	De Ridder*	Barnard**	Holmes***
DECEMBER																	
Sat 3 Doncaster	A	L 0-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Hammond	Cork**	Lallana	Schneiderlin	Do Prado	Holmes*	Barnard**	
Sat 10 Blackpool	H	D 2-2	Bialkowski	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox**	Schneiderlin	Hammond*	Cork	Lallana	Lambert 2	Do Prado	De Ridder*	Harding**	
Sun 18 Portsmouth	A	D 1-1	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox*	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	Lallana	Lambert 1	Do Prado	Harding*	Hammond**	
Mon 26 Crystal Palace	H	W 2-0	Davis	Richardson	Fonte	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder*	Schneiderlin**	Cork	Lallana	Lambert	Do Prado 2	Connolly*	Hammond**	
Fri 30 Bristol City	H	L 0-1	Davis	Richardson***	Martin	Hooiveld	Fox	De Ridder	Schneiderlin**	Cork	Lallana*	Lambert	Do Prado	Connolly*	Hammond**	Holmes***
JANUARY																	
Mon 2 Brighton	A	L 0-3	Davis	Richardson	Martin	Hooiveld	Harding*	Do Prado**	Hammond	Cork	Lallana***	Lambert	Connolly	Fox*	Forte**	Reeves***
Sat 7 Coventry (FAC 3)	A	W 2-1	Bialkowski	Harding***	Martin 1	Hooiveld	Fox	Schneiderlin	Hammond	Cork	W-Prowse** 1	Lallana	Doble*	Hoskins*	Reeves**	Stephens***
Sat 14 Notts Forest	A	W 3-0	Davis	Harding**	Martin	Hooiveld	Fox	Cork	Hammond	Schneiderlin 1	Lallana***	Do Prado* 1	Connolly 1	Holmes*	Butterfield**	Reeves***
Mon 23 Leicester	H	L 0-2	Davis	Harding	Martin	Hooiveld**	Fox	Cork	Hammond**	Schneiderlin	Falque*	Do Prado	Connolly	Holmes*	De Ridder**	Richardson***
Sat 28 Millwall (FAC)	A															
Tues 31 Cardiff	H															
FEBRUARY																	
Sat 4 Birmingham	A															
Sat 11 Burnley	H															
Tues 14 West Ham	A															
Sat 18 Derby	H															
Sat 25 Watford	A															
MARCH																	
Sat 3 Leeds	A															
Tues 6 Ipswich	H															
Sat 10 Barnsley	H															
Sat 17 Millwall	A															
Tues 20 Hull	A															
Sat 24 Doncaster	H															
Sat 31 Blackpool	A															
APRIL																	
Sat 7 Portsmouth	H															
Mon 9 Crystal Palace	A															
Sat 14 Reading	H															
Tues 17 Peterborough	A															
Sat 21 Middlesbrough	A															
Sat 28 Coventry	H															

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	26	0	0	0	255	0	STEVE DE RIDDER	4(18)	3	3	1	7(18)	4	RYAN DOBLE	0	0	1	0	1	0
BARTOSZ BIALKOWSKI	1	0	5	0	39(1)	0	RICHARD CHAPLOW	8(7)	3	2	1	37(10)	6	DANNY FOX	19(4)	0	1	0	20(4)	0
TOMMY FORECAST	0	0	0	0	0	0	DEAN HAMMOND	22(4)	1	1(2)	0	118(7)	11	JOS HOOIVLED	22	2	2	1	24	3
DANNY BUTTERFIELD	1(1)	0	3	0	40(4)	0	JACK CORK	25(2)	0	3	0	52(3)	0	JAMES WARD-PROWSE	0	0	2	0	2	0
FRAZER RICHARDSON	23	0	1	0	41(7)	0	MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	14(12)	2	5	0	115(27)	3	SAM HOSKINS	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0
DAN HARDING	10(4)	1	3	0	106(7)	5	ADAM LALLANA	23	6	2(2)	1	155(19)	41	JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
RYAN DICKSON	0	0	2	0	19(11)	1	LEE HOLMES	0(5)	1	4	0	21(20)	3	YAGO FALQUE	1	0	0	0	1	0
BEN REEVES	0(2)	0	2(1)	0	2(3)	0	RICKIE LAMBERT	24	15	1(3)	2	132(6)	74							
JOSE FONTE	23	0	0(1)	0	95(1)	7	LEE BARNARD	0(4)	0	0(1)	0	44(25)	24							
RADHI JAIDI	0	0	0	0	67(1)	4	GULY DO PRADO	27	10	2(1)	1	56(13)	22							
AARON MARTIN	5(1)	0	5	0	18(5)	0	DAVID CONNOLLY	15(5)	6	0	0	35(26)	17							
DAN SEABORNE	4	0	2	0	35(15)	0	JONATHAN FORTE	0(1)	0	3(1)	2	5(10)	4							

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**

SAINTS' GAMBLE THAT FAILED

SAINTS' promotion hopes are likely to rest on how they fare over the next few weeks.

The FA Cup tie at Millwall this weekend is a mere warm-up for a run of league fixtures that sees them host Cardiff at home and travel to Birmingham and West Ham.

Saints' run-in looks perfectly acceptable, but the next three weeks are absolutely vital to their promotion hopes.

Not that long ago, it looked as if they might go up to the Premier League at something of a canter.

Saints were well clear at the top and, most importantly, had a healthy cushion over third place and the play-off spots.

That has gradually been nibbled away to the point that they now trail new leaders West Ham and are just a solitary point ahead of third placed Cardiff.

Adam Rant has always maintained that West Ham's standing is not overly relevant, such is my confidence that the quality of their squad means that they will win automatic promotion.

For Saints, how far ahead or behind of the Hammers they find themselves doesn't feel that important.

But that gap to third really is vital.

Having been so far clear, the Saints squad would not be human if doubts were not starting to creep into their minds.

They must have felt on such a roll and have firmly believed they would take advantage of their wonderful position and push on along a smooth road to the top flight.

In fact, that belief shows on the pitch because it brought them so many results.

Now, though, the mood is understandably rather different, both in the stands and most probably in the dressing room too.

Saints have had a run of injuries and suspensions, which is unfortunate.

But the counter argument is that every side gets them, and

Saints have played a few teams that have struggled with the same problems already this season and picked up a victory.

The other point that must be made is that everybody knew in the summer that Nigel Adkins needed another couple of players, in particular a striker.

The manager needed somebody to be able to come in and be a like-for-like replacement for Rickie Lambert, in style if not quality.

Lambert is of such importance to the whole way the side set up and play that they couldn't afford to take a gamble.

For a whole variety of reasons, they failed to get anybody in.

They took a chance and it didn't pay off as against Leicester at St Mary's last Monday they really needed a player of that style but didn't have one at their disposal.

At the time of writing, they still haven't recruited that person, albeit the arrival of Tadanari Lee does at least add another option.

Adkins must be hoping that his experienced players return in time for Cardiff next Tuesday and get firing straightaway.

It's a tough ask as they are bound to be a bit rusty, but, boy, does he need it.

If the big guns come back in and Saints pick up wins over their near rivals, it's very hard to see them faltering and we can start to really look forward to a Premier League campaign.

If the big guns come in and take a bit of time to get going, and results follow accordingly, the rest of this season could turn into a real scrap.

Before the season started, Saints might have expected that to be the case if they were in and around this position.

But the start they had meant they most certainly didn't just a handful of weeks ago.

In any elite sport, the mental side is as important as the physical – and this is a massive test.



RICKIE LAMBERT:
Still no like-for-like replacement.

Time to look at changing the draw ...

THE quality on show at the Australian Open has been as good as you would have expected, and yet there is something not quite right there.

Seven time Slam winner Mats Wilander hit upon it the other day when he suggested that only the top 16 players should be seeded for the main draw, rather than the top 32.

Adam Rant, at the time of going to press still waiting to win his first Slam, wholeheartedly agrees.

By seeding the top 32 players you limit the number of potential shocks and upsets that will happen in the early rounds.

Look at the progress of the top four in the world, for example.

No disrespect to the guys they were up against, but there was barely any competition for them until they got into the second week.

Only then do they start to face the lower seeded players who can cause an upset if they have an exceptional day and the big four have a shocker.

You can understand why the tournament organisers like it – they want the big names in the final days of the tournament.

It does make that more exciting and generates more interest and, such is the quality of the big four, they invariably are in the semi-finals.

But it does lose a bit of the magic of a knockout tournament.



POTENTIAL STAR: Price.

This Price looks right

BRITISH heavyweight boxing has a potential new star in the making in the shape of David Price.

There has been plenty of talk of him quickly moving up the ranks and, after his demolition of John McDermott, it's safe to assume he is ready to really push on.

Price proved he has the sort of power that will trouble any heavyweight, and that is as important as anything else in a division where one punch can settle a fight.

Up next could be a mouth-watering clash with Tyson Fury, the winner no doubt launching themselves onto the world stage.

Saints Spotlight

Did You Know?

WHAT WAS MAKING THE NATION SING WHEN SAINTS WENT TO NO 1 IN THE LEAGUE ...

The official top 40 best-selling singles, leading up to January 30 1982

- 1 Shakin' Stevens Oh Julie
- 2 Bucks Fizz The Land of Make Believe
- 3 Stranglers Golden Brown
- 4 Kool & The Gang Get Down On It
- 5 Meat Loaf Dead Ringer For Love
- 6 Human League Being Boiled
- 7 Christopher Cross Arthur's Theme
- 8 Jon & Vangelis I'll Find My Way Home
- 9 OMD Maid of Orleans
- 10 Dollar Mirror Mirror (Mon Amour)
- 11 Mobiles Drowning in Berlin
- 12 Foreigner Waiting For A Girl Like You
- 13 Altered Images I Could Be Happy
- 14 Shakatak Easier Said Than Done
- 15 Human League Don't You Want Me
- 16 Brown Sauce I Wanna Be A Winner
- 17 Four Tops Don't Walk Away



NO 1 IN THE CHARTS: Shakin Stevens.

- 18 XTC Senses Working Overtime
- 19 Alton Edwards
- 1 Just Wanna (Spend Some Time With You)
- 20 Phil Lynott Yellow Pearl
- 21 Madness It Must Be Love
- 22 George Benson
- Never Give Up On A Good Thing
- 23 AC / DC Let's Get It Up
- 24 Abba One Of Us
- 25 ELO Here Is The News
- 26 Adam & The Ants Ant Rap
- 27 Rod Stewart Young Turks
- 28 Gillan Restless
- 29 Elkie Brooks Fool If You Think It's Over
- 30 Olivia Newton-John Landslide
- 31 Daryl Hall & John Oates
- I Can't Go For That (No Can Do)
- 32 Soft Cell Say Hello Wave Goodbye
- 33 Japan European Son
- 34 Lindsey Buckingham Trouble
- 35 Stiff Little Fingers Listen
- 36 Mike Post & Larry Carlton
- Theme From 'Hill Street Blues'
- 37 Haircut 100 Love Plus One
- 38 Diana Ross Mirror Mirror
- 39 Rhoda & Special AKA The Boiler
- 40 Status Quo Rock 'N' Roll



NO 2 IN THE CHARTS: Bucks Fizz.



A DAY OF MIRACLE AND

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

IT is now 30 years since Saints topped English football's top flight for the first time in the club's history.

Saints have been used to looking down from the Championship's summit this season but at the end of January 1982, every other English club was looking up at Lawrie McMenemy's side.

Kevin Keegan scored the only goal from Alan Ball's through ball at Middlesbrough's former home, Ayresome Park, midway through the second and most prolific of his two seasons with the club.

The win took Saints above Manchester United at the top of the First Division on January 30th 1982.

Ron Atkinson's United had started the day top but were knocked off their perch after losing 2-0 at Swansea City, who were enjoying their first ever season in the top flight.

Saints stayed top throughout February and most of March before being replaced, briefly by Swansea and then eventual champions Liverpool at the beginning of April.

At the time, Lawrie McMenemy compared the achievement to winning the FA Cup in 1976.

Saints eventually finished seventh, which was high enough for UEFA Cup qualification.

But that period in 1982, with Keegan, Mick Channon and Alan Ball in the side, remains the longest stint Saints have ever enjoyed at the top of English football.

When Saints finished second – the club's highest ever final league position – under McMenemy two seasons later they came up on the rails with just two defeats in their final 18 matches.

This was the Saints team 30 years ago at Middlesbrough: Ivan Katalinic, Ivan Golac, Nick

MATCH-WINNER: Kevin Keegan in action during Saints' win at Middlesbrough in January 1982 which saw Lawrie McMenemy's men climb to the summit of the Football League.

When Saints went top of the First Division for first time in the club's history

Holmes, Graham Baker, Chris Nicholl, Malcolm Waldron, Kevin Keegan, Mick Channon, Trevor Hebbard, David Armstrong, Alan Ball.

And these are the memories of some of those involved:

LAWRIE MCMENEMY

Going back to the north east was always special for me whether we were playing Middlesbrough,

Sunderland or Newcastle.

So there was more spotlight on me than usual.

The senior players knew what it meant to me and they came up trumps.

But I didn't know the win that day had put us top immediately after the game.

I was in Middlesbrough's staffroom having a cup of tea before getting back on the coach

when a steward popped his head around the door and said "well done Lawrie - you're top!"

I remember reading the headlines the next day and it was lovely to look at the league table.

Going top of the first division at Middlesbrough a few months after we signed him was an especially great moment for David Armstrong.

A homecoming to remember.

WENDY GEE'S NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL STARTS ON THE CENTRE PAGES

Saints Spotlight



WONDER



He gave the midfield that left-side balance for several years.

Unlike the team that finished second in 1984, the 1981-82 side had the likes of Kevin Keegan, Mick Channon and Alan Ball so there was a lot of flair.

Keegan was a huge attraction at all our games and the main reason we attracted record crowds for the season at most of the clubs we visited.

That day was no different.

With Trevor Hebbard in the side alongside Channon and Keegan, we had a very attacking side. But going top was short-lived.

Finishing second two seasons later was far more satisfying as we ended up only three points behind Liverpool over 42 games.

But both were achievements to be proud of.

There is no reason why

Southampton cannot win the FA Cup again, that is always possible, but it's very unlikely the club will ever go top of the Premier League and/or finish as high as second again.

DAVID ARMSTRONG

It was a memorable day, particularly because it was the only game I played at Ayresome Park against Middlesbrough.

They were relegated that season so I never went back there as a player, but I will always remember being given a nice reception by the supporters.

Lawrie asked me to be captain for the day just before we went out, but I said it had been going so well with Kevin Keegan and would rather we left it at that.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Cold snap a big record breaker

JANUARY 1982 saw many games postponed in England because of the widespread snowy conditions.

The big freeze had started in early December, and as a result on January 2 1982 six FA Cup second round ties were being played on what was third round day!

On January 9 only eight league games in the top four divisions survived the cold snap, plus one FA Cup tie.

The following weekend, only 20 out of the scheduled 46 games in the top four divisions took place.

Also this month, the lowest ever UK temperature of -27.2°C was recorded at Braemar in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

This equalled the record set in the same place on February 11, 1895.

The lowest ever temperature recorded in England was also set - 26.1°C at Newport in Shropshire on January 10.

That broke a record which had been set just four weeks earlier.



COLD SNAP: Kids play in Southampton, January 1982

FIRST DIVISION, JANUARY 20 1982

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAINTS	22	12	4	6	40	30	40
Manchester United	22	11	6	5	33	18	39
Ipswich Town	19	12	2	5	36	26	38
Manchester City	22	11	5	6	34	25	38
Liverpool	21	10	6	5	36	20	36
Swansea City	22	11	3	8	33	33	36
Brighton	22	8	10	4	26	19	34
Everton	23	9	7	7	33	28	34
Arsenal	20	10	4	6	18	15	34
Tottenham Hotspur	19	10	3	6	28	20	33
Nottingham Forest	21	9	6	6	25	26	33
West Ham United	20	7	8	5	36	28	29
Notts County	21	7	5	9	30	36	26
West Bromwich Albion	19	6	6	7	24	22	24
Coventry City	23	6	5	12	34	40	23
Leeds United	20	6	5	9	20	33	23
Aston Villa	21	5	7	9	23	27	22
Stoke City	22	6	4	12	24	33	22
Birmingham City	20	4	7	9	31	35	19
Wolves	21	5	4	12	13	31	19
Sunderland	20	4	5	11	17	33	17
Middlesbrough	20	2	6	12	16	32	12

FIRST DIVISION, HOW THEY ENDED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	42	26	9	7	80	32	87
Ipswich Town	42	26	5	11	75	53	83
Manchester United	42	22	12	8	59	29	78
Tottenham Hotspur	42	20	11	11	67	48	71
Arsenal	42	20	11	11	48	37	71
Swansea City	42	21	6	15	58	51	69
SAINTS	42	19	9	14	72	67	66
Everton	42	17	13	12	56	50	64
West Ham United	42	16	12	14	66	57	58
Manchester City	42	15	13	14	49	50	58
Aston Villa	42	15	12	15	55	53	57
Nottingham Forest	42	15	12	15	42	48	57
Brighton	42	13	13	16	43	52	52
Coventry City	42	13	11	18	56	62	50
Notts County	42	13	8	21	61	69	47
Birmingham City	42	10	14	18	53	61	44
West Bromwich Albion	42	11	11	20	46	57	44
Stoke City	42	12	8	22	44	63	44
Sunderland	42	11	11	20	38	58	44
Leeds United	42	10	12	20	39	61	42
Wolves	42	10	10	22	32	63	40
Middlesbrough	42	8	15	19	34	52	39

CONTACT THE DAILY ECHO AT echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Saints Spotlight

FOOTBALL LEAGUE RESULTS ON DAY SAINTS WENT TOP OF THE FIRST DIVISION FOR FIRST TIME

NOTE some of the attendances in the old Second Division – notably Newcastle's crowd of under 15,000 and Chelsea's of under 11,500!

In the top flight, Arsenal v Leeds couldn't attract a crowd of even 22,500 to Highbury.

DIVISION ONE

Arsenal 1 (Vaessen) Leeds United 0
Att: 22,408

Aston Villa 0 Liverpool 3 (McDermott 2, Rush)
Att: 35,947

Coventry City 0 Brighton 1 (Ritchie)
Att: 11,023

Everton 1 (Sharp) Tottenham 1 (Villa)
Att: 40,451

Ipswich 1 (Thijssen) Notts County 3 (Mair, Kilcline, Hook)
Att: 21,570

Manchester City 4 (Francis 2, Reeves 2) Birmingham City 2 (Worthington 2)
Att: 28,438

Middlesbrough 0 Saints 1 (Keegan)
Att: 12,693

Nottingham Forest 0 Stoke City 0
Att: 16,219

Swansea City 2 (Curtis, R James) Manchester United 0
Att: 23,900

West Ham 3-1 (Cross 2, Goddard) West Bromwich 1 (King)
Att: 24,423

Wolves 0 Sunderland 1 (Cooke)
Att: 11,099

DIVISION TWO

Barnsley 0 Cambridge United 0
Att: 13,114

Blackburn 1 (Gamer) Cardiff City 0
Att: 7,001

Chelsea 3 (Walker 3) Shrewsbury 1 (Atkins)
Att: 11,446

Crystal Palace 0 QPR 0
Att: 15,267

Derby County 3 (Wilson 2, Sheridan) Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Bannister)
Att: 11,215

Grimsby Town 3 (Drinkell 2, K Moore) Charlton 3 (Hales, McAllister, Walsh)
Att: 7,088

Luton Town 2 (White, Donaghy) Leicester City 1 (Lineker)
Att: 11,810

Newcastle United 2 (Mills, Varadi) Norwich 1 (Downs)
Att: 14,447

Oldham 1 (og) Bolton Wanderers 1 (Thompson)
Att: 9,271

Rotherham 1 (Fern) Watford 2 (Bolton, Barnes)
Att: 8,129

Wrexham 0 Orient 1 (Godfrey)
Att: 4,221

Historic win sent



From Page 15

Ayresome Park was always a difficult place to go to for visiting teams but we managed to scrape a 1-0 win and everyone was over the moon afterwards.

To go top on my return to Middlesbrough was the icing on the cake.

Like the supporters, we all looked forward to every game we played that season because we had such a great team spirit and loved to entertain.

There was a party atmosphere

at every game, especially at The Dell.

We sometimes left ourselves a bit open away from home but having so many talented players at our disposal meant it was always going to be difficult for Middlesbrough, who were struggling.

They did their best to stifle us and although I don't remember the goal we did enough that day.

"It was a game of mixed emo-

tions because Middlesbrough nurtured me as a young player.

It was where I grew up as a person and a footballer.

They instilled in me the ethics and morals that have helped me outside the game.

And although my return as a player was particularly memorable, I've always enjoyed the occasions I've gone back to Ayresome Park and, in recent years, the Riverside.

MALCOLM WALDRON

Having played throughout the previous summer in the States, following an Achilles injury, it was a tiring season for me physically but I thoroughly enjoyed it. Being top was good for the city, no-one had dreamt Southampton would be up there.

We had a lot of star names coming towards the end of their careers along with younger players coming through like Graham Baker and Trevor Hebbard.

We were excellent going forward but Chris Nicholl and I also



DREW SMITH SOTON LEAGUE COVERAGE - SEE PAGES 36/37

Saints Spotlight

Saints top



FLASHBACK: Kevin Keegan on the ball during the win at Middlesbrough which took Saints top of the whole Football League.

had a very good understanding at the back, so much so that the Echo wanted to do a piece with us dressed as beefeaters – we declined!

We had a terrific camaraderie, we socialised together and I'm still in touch with a few of the players even now on facebook.

GRAHAM BAKER

I was privileged to play alongside so many internationals that season. Although I don't remember the Middlesbrough game specifically, I do remember scor-

ing the winner past Jo Corrigan against Manchester City at the Dell the following week to keep us top.

We were there until Easter. Kevin Keegan really came to the fore that season after a few injuries in his first year with us.

It was a fantastic squad, we played some exciting football and were involved in some great games. The one that stands out was beating Ipswich 4-3 at The Dell having trailed 3-0 at half-time!

We were an out-and-out attack-

ing team that tried to put the game to bed in the first 30 minutes.

NICK HOLMES

That season was an unbelievable experience for anybody attached to the team.

My memory of specific games is unclear, but the whole season was a real rollercoaster.

Kevin Keegan was a special person to have in the team.

He was always really good when he was wanted for this and that at hotels we stayed at on away trips

Trevor Hebbard played in that game at Middlesbrough and was a very under-rated player, it was very difficult for youngsters to break into that team.

We were top for a while but it was a very bad winter and the teams behind us had more games postponed, so always had those in hand.

I only remember us being top on one other occasion – after beating QPR 5-1 on the opening day of the 1986-87 season. But in those days they did not print the league table until a few games into the season!

FOOTBALL LEAGUE RESULTS ON DAY SAINTS WENT TOP OF THE FIRST DIVISION FOR FIRST TIME

WHILE Saints were going top of the old First Division, arch rivals Pompey were being held 0-0 at Fratton Park by Southend in front of a crowd of under 8,000.

Former Saints striker Tony Funnell, meanwhile, was scoring for Cherries in a Fourth Division draw at home to Halifax Town.

Cherries went on to win promotion at the end of the season.

DIVISION THREE

Bristol Rovers 1 (G Mabbutt) Reading 1 (Donnellan)
Att: 5,355

Carlisle 1 (Bannon) Lincoln City
Att: 3,893

Fulham 1 (Davies) Chesterfield 0
Att: 9,213

Gillingham 0 Preston North End (Naughton, Bruce)
Att: 5,379

Huddersfield 1 (Cowling) Burnley 2 (Taylor 2)
Att: 10,269

Millwall 2 (Horrix, Paddon) Chester City 1 (Cooke)
Att: 3,250

Newport County 1 (Vaughan) Bristol City 1 (Harford)
Att: 5,927

Plymouth 1 (Hodges) Brentford 0
Att: 5,008

Portsmouth 0 Southend 0
Att: 7,731

Walsall 1 (Penn) Oxford United 3 (Thomas, Cassells, Foley)

DIVISION FOUR

Blackpool 1 (Entwistle) 0 Darlington
Att: 3,336

Bournemouth 1 (Funnell) 1 Halifax Town 1 (Ward)
Att: 4,690

Bradford City 0-0 Hereford United
Att: 3,734

Bury 3 (Johnson, Butler, Cruickshank) Mansfield 2 (Bell, Lumby)
Att: 2,954

Hartlepool 3 (Houchen, Fagan, Newton) 2 York 2 (Crosby 2)
Att: 2,291

Northampton 2 (Denyer, Perrin) Wigan 3 (Lloyd, O'Keefe, Bradd)
Att: 2418

Peterborough 2 (Clarke, Cooke) Stockport 0
Att: 3,525

Port Vale 1 (Tartt) Rochdale 1 (Martinez)
Att: 3,835

Sheffield United 0 Hull City 0
Att: 12,612

Torquay 1 (Sermani) Colchester
Att: 2037

Tranmere 0 Scunthorpe 1 (Green)
Att: 1,520

SIX NATIONS RUGBY PREVIEW - SEE PAGE 43

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

£28,000

or £2,100 nearest miss prize...

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week**20 for Southern Daily Echo
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth
10 for Dorset Echo
10 for Sunday Independent
10 for Brighton Argus**

FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot and £50 will be added to the nearest-miss prize.

The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Wednesday,
1 February
2012
Names of winners will be published on
Saturday
4 February
or **Sunday**
5 February
2012

An incident in a Bristol v Southampton match

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January 28, 2012

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Closing time Monday

Deadlines for selected newsagents collection boxes as listed in:
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closing time Monday
Southern Daily Echo
10.00 am Tuesday
Dorset Echo
Closing time Monday

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Competition number **S03**

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CONGRATULATIONS

Mrs E Samways, Wool, Dorset.

who wins the Runner Up prize of £2,050

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of **£15**

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Mrs P Anderson, Southampton, Hants
Mr P Blakely, Southampton, Hants
Mr R Charlton, Southampton, Hants
Mr C Colville, Fareham, Hants
Mr D Currie, Southampton, Hants
Miss N Davis, Southampton, Hants
Mrs S Filmer, Eastleigh, Hants
Miss D Forder, Southampton, Hants
Mr D Goulding, Southampton, Hants

Mr D Goulding, Southampton, Hants
Mrs Y Harber, Southampton, Hants
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Mrs J Kimber, Alresford, Hants
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Mrs P McNeill, Hythe, Hants
Mr M O'Connor, Southampton, Hants
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Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed 'X' Co. Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. **NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO.** **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB PO Box 24 Competitions, Southampton SO16 9ZD in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted.



Non-league Action

BLUE SQUARE BET SOUTH: Eastleigh 4 Sutton United 0

Hat-trick hero gets Eastleigh Bubb-ling

ON LOAN striker Bradley Bubb made himself an instant hit with the Eastleigh fans by hitting a hat-trick in a sparkling four-goal win.

The Spitfires made just one change to the side held 1-1 by Salisbury on Tuesday with fit-again striker Jamie Slabber replacing Jamie Brown.

The heavily sanded pitch, badly cut up in mid-week, was just about passed fit and the teams were welcomed on to the field by a guard of honour made up of Eastleigh youth players.

Eastleigh's Michael Green didn't get off to the luckiest of starts and was rather harshly booked just three minutes in for sliding in on Harry Beautyman on one of the boggiest areas of the pitch.

Beautyman then beat the left-back and laid the ball back to Joel Ledgister who fired straight at keeper Jack Dovey.

Eastleigh, looking susceptible to Sutton's pacey attacks early on, were then forced into an eighth-minute substitution with Danny Smith replacing the injured Phil Appiah in mid-field.

And there was a minor scare for the Spitfires on 11 minutes when Moses Odubajo's cross was deflected just past the post off

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

Eastleigh skipper Tom Jordan.

Bubb responded with an equally dangerous cross for Eastleigh, but good defending by the visitors kept Slabber's threat at bay.

On 16 minutes Sutton keeper Kevin Scriven did well to turn away Damian Scannell's fierce blast after Jordan had headed on Green's free kick.

That triggered a decent spell of pressure from the Spitfires who threatened again with Slabber's glancing header from Daryl McMahon's ball in.

Sutton responded with a spate of set pieces, but the longer the game went on, the more McMahon's quality shone, and on 28 minutes he crossed for his former Farnborough team-mate Bubb, who brought the ball down and hooked an acrobatic volley over.

Former Spitfires favourite Anthony Riviere, the Sutton skipper, then drifted a long-range effort just over before Eastleigh finally broke the deadlock on 32 minutes.

McMahon's delivery was flicked on by Slabber, putting BUBB in the clear and he brilliantly kept his head to curl his shot past Scriven in a one-on-one.

Eastleigh, though, had on-loan Saints keeper Dovey to



GETTING TO KNOW YOU: Bradley Bubb celebrates with the Eastleigh fans after putting his side 1-0 ahead.

Pictures: Paul Collins.

thank for protecting that lead on 36 minutes.

Smith was booked for a foul on Riviere in the middle of the park and ex-Saint Paul

Telfer caught Eastleigh napping with a free kick straight to Craig Watkins, who swung at the ball first time, forcing Dovey into a fine stop at the foot of his left-hand post.

Just before half-time McMahon picked out Bubb with another excellent ball and the goal-scorer squared to Slabber, who shot straight at defender Neil Jenkins.

McMahon became the third Spitfire booked for a foul on Odubajo.

Half-time:
Eastleigh 1 Sutton Utd 0
After a comparatively quiet start to the second half Eastleigh were gifted a second goal on 50 minutes – again from that man Bubb.

Scannell crossed from the right and ex-Havant keeper Scriven made a hash of trying to punch clear, presenting BUBB with a close range finish.

On 55 minutes, Sutton almost pulled one back with a delicate angled shot by Riviere, cleared off the line by Green with Craig

Dundas's follow-up blocked.

Us boss Paul Doswell made a double substitution, throwing Kyle Vassell and the experienced Leroy Griffiths into the fray. But it did not have the desired effect for the visitors who found themselves 3-0 down just after the hour as on-loan Aldershot marksman BUBB completed his hat-trick by winning another one-on-one duel with Scriven.

The Sutton goalkeeper partially redeemed himself three minutes later by blocking out Smith at his near post after the substitute had nipped onto Bubb's cross.

Hat-trick hero Bubb left the field to rousing applause as Graeme Montgomery replaced him with ten minutes remaining.

But even without Bubb, Eastleigh still managed a fourth goal on 83 minutes when SCANNELL latched onto McMahon's pass from the left and slotted the ball past Scriven.

Jamie out for action

WEYMOUTH winger Jamie Beasley has been sent out on loan to Poole Town in a bid to recapture the form that saw him terrorise defences.

The 24-year-old was one of Terras' leading lights last season after climbing six rungs up the non-League ladder following his move from Dorchester Borough.

But he has spent much of this season on the subs' bench and Brendon King, manager of the Southern Premier club, confirmed: "Jamie is going on loan to Poole.

"He might be there for longer than a month, but we have a call-back option on him.

"He needs games as he's not played a lot of football this season.

"Jamie was injured at the start of the season with a broken hand and then he got a 35-day ban for a silly red card in a five-a-side competition. That cost him his place, but he has learnt from it."

Beasley went on as a 75th-minute substitute for play-off chasing Poole in last Saturday's 2-0 Evo-Stik South & West win at Stourport Swifts.

Cup pair back in

BROCKENHURST and **Alton Town** have been reinstated in the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup – after Moneyfields were thrown out.

Brock lost their original quarter-final tie 3-2 to Moneyfields but it has since been declared null and void because the Portsmouth side fielded an ineligible player against Alton in the previous round.

Unbeknown to Moneyfields, ex-Spurs winger Sol Asajile had played for Winchester City earlier in the competition.

"When we got the call to say the league committee had identified the fact Winchester City had used Sol in one of their cup matches, I made a point of asking him if it was true," said Money's boss Miles Rutherford.

"I was told he just turned up and played, not bothering whether it was a first or reserve team match in the league or cup.

"It has cost us and we have no grounds for appeal."

The quarter-final will now be replayed as Brockenhurst v Alton at Grigg Lane on Wednesday (February 1).

Rob makes amends

Dover 1 Salisbury 1
SALISBURY completed a run of three difficult games – and for much of their visit to Dover will have been thinking about a points haul of seven from nine.

As it was, a 1-1 draw was a good result against a side on a long unbeaten run who are on the fringes of the play-off positions.

The home side produced a half chance for Barry Cogan on 20 minutes when a cross from the left gave him a headed opportunity which he put past the far post from ten yards, but two minutes later Robbie Matthews missed a

BLUE SQUARE BET SOUTH

golden opportunity for the Whites.

After the ball broke to him in the penalty area he was left with a clear shot on goal but his tame finish was easily gathered by the keeper.

Dan Fitchett was well wide with an 18-yard effort on 42 minutes but MATTHEWS made up for his earlier miss, opening the scoring in time added on at the end of the first-half when he profited from a mix-up in the home

defence to prod the ball home, making it a personal tally of three goals in three games for him.

In the second half Dover started brightly and, on 56 minutes, Shane Huke was left in acres of space on the left. Salisbury keeper Will Puddy blocked his effort but, when Huke returned the ball into the box, Glen SOUTHAM headed in from close range.

Both sides sparred for the winner but cancelled each other out and Salisbury suffered a late blow when substitute Matt Clark was sent off with a straight red card in time added on.

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

CHERRIES 2011/12

August

6 Charlton (A)L 0-3
9 Dagenham (H, CC)W 5-0
Taylor 2, Pugh, Cooper, Feeney
13 Sheff Wed (H)W 2-0
Barrett, Arter
16 Stevenage (H)L 1-3
Arter
20 Carlisle (A)L 1-2
Arter (pen)
23 WBA (H, CC)L 1-4
Lovell
27 Walsall (H)L 0-2
20 Hereford (H, JPT)W 4-1
Stockley 2, Pugh, MacDonald

September

3 Notts County (A)L 1-3
Pugh
10 Chesterfield (H)L 0-3
13 Leyton Orient (A)W 3-1
Arter (pen), Thomas, Pugh
17 Exeter (A)W 2-0
Thomas, OG
24 HartlepoolL 1-2
Gregory

October

1 Tranmere (A)D 0-0
4 Yeovil (H, JPT)W 3-2
Pugh 2, OG
8 RochdaleD 1-1
Symes pen
15 MK Dons (A)D 2-2
Thomas 2
22 Bury (H)L 1-3
25 Colchester (A)D 1-1
Thomas
29 Preston (A)W 3-1
Thomas, Malone, Pugh

November

5 Scunthorpe (H)W 2-0
Malone, Thomas
12 Gillingham (H, FAC)D 3-3
Purchases, Zubar, Malone,
19 Wycombe(A)W 1-0
22 Gillingham (A, FACR)L 2-3
og, Arter

26 Oldham (H)D 0-0

December

10 Huddersfield (A)W 1-0
Ater
17 Sheff Utd (H)L 0-2
26 Brentford (A)D 1-1
Sheringham
31 Yeovil (A)W 3-1
Gregory, Fogden, Daniels

January

2 Wycombe (H)W 2-0
Thomas, Symes
7 Walsall (A)D 2-2
Symes, Fletcher
14 Notts County (H)
Thomas, FogdenW 2-1
21 TranmereW 2-1
Thomas, Pugh
28 ChesterfieldL 0-1

February

4 Exeter(H)
11 Hartlepool(A)
14 Leyton Orient(H)
18 Rochdale(A)
25 MK Dons(H)

March

3 Charlton(H)
6 Stevenage(A)
10 Sheff Wed(A)
17 Carlisle(H)
20 Brentford(H)
24 Oldham(A)
31 Yeovil(H)

April

7 Sheff Utd(A)
9 Huddersfield(H)
14 Bury(A)
21 Colchester(H)
28 Scunthorpe(A)

May

5 Preston(H)

NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP: Peterborough 0 Pompey 3

Rampant Pompey thrash poor Posh

PORTSMOUTH claimed their first win at Peterborough in more than 50 years to leapfrog their opponents in the npower Championship table.

A brace from Erik Huseklepp and a Jason Pearce header was enough to give Michael Appleton's side their first win in four matches.

Peterborough are now winless in five league games and are in danger of being sucked into a relegation battle.

Posh boss Darren Ferguson made three changes from their 2-1 loss to Brighton, with Lee Frecklington, George Boyd and Grant McCann all making their first starts after injury.

Appleton only made one change his side's narrow 3-2 defeat at Cardiff, Ricardo Rocha replacing struggling striker Dave Kitson.

Portsmouth started the match with real purpose and took the lead after six minutes as Joel Ward found himself in space on the right wing.

His cross was met by Marko Futacs, whose header was palmed away by Joe Lewis before Huseklepp eventually fired home the rebound for his fourth goal of the season. Peterborough



DOUBLE ACT: Erik Huseklepp and Jason Pearce were both on target in the first half for Portsmouth.

fought back and Stephen Henderson was relieved to see Paul Taylor's right-footed drive from just outside the box fly inches wide of his far post.

Kelvin Etuhu, playing his second match in Portsmouth colours, was causing the home defence problems and

almost created his side's second goal. The striker played in his captain Liam Lawrence on the right-hand side whose shot was smartly tipped around the near post by Lewis.

Etuhu then drove in from the right again and rifled a shot just over Lewis' cross-

bar, as Peterborough struggled to deal with the imposing Nigerian.

The deserved second goal came Portsmouth's way five minutes before the break, when defender Pearce's run went untracked by the Peterborough defence and he glanced home a Liam Lawrence cross to double his tally for the season.

The hosts rarely looked like scoring after the break, belying their record as the second most prolific strikeforce in the Championship.

If anyone looked like pulling Posh back into the game it was Taylor, as the midfielder went on a mazy run but his shot from the edge of the box drifted wide.

McCann then had a free kick that Henderson tipped around the post as Peterborough finally looked to apply some pressure on the Portsmouth goal.

Henderson had to be alert again when Tommy Rowe was put through but the winger's shot was too close to the Pompey keeper.

Portsmouth then sealed victory with a clinical finish from Huseklepp, who easily turned Ryan Bennett and bent the ball around Lewis and into the far corner.

The third goal put a deserved gloss on the scoreline and wrapped up Portsmouth's first victory at London Road since December 1961.

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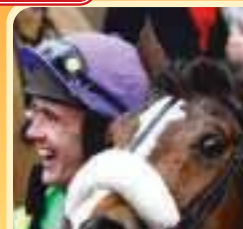
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Departs 15 March 2012

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

NPOWER LEAGUE 1: Chesterfield 1 Bournemouth 0

Cherries' away day joy ended

Unbeaten away run ended by strugglers

LIAM Ridehalgh bagged the only goal of the game as Cherries' impressive unbeaten away run was ended by League One strugglers Chesterfield on Friday night, writes Neil Parrett.

Ridehalgh's stunning strike earned the Spireites a precious victory in their battle to avoid the drop as Cherries' colours were lowered for the first time on the road since early September.

Boss Lee Bradbury made two changes to the Cherries starting line-up with Shaun MacDonald and Steven Gregory drafted in for Michael Symes and Harry Arter.

Arter was ruled out after suffering a dead leg in training, while Symes dropped down to the bench as Bradbury opted for a switch in formation.

Gregory acted as a shield in front of the back four, while Wes Fogden and Marc Pugh supported lone striker Wes Thomas.

Chesterfield were penned inside their own half for long periods of the first 45 minutes, although the Spireites did lay claim to the clearest goalscoring opportunity.

It came after Cherries defender Stephane Zubar had squandered possession three minutes before the break, gifting Jack Lester a run on goal.

However, after the veteran striker had advanced to the edge of the 18-yard box, his powerful left-foot drive was well saved by Darryl Flahavan.

Cherries made most of the early running with the visitors' midfield dictating proceedings as Chesterfield were forced to defend in numbers.

OUCH: Cherries' Wes Thomas takes a blow from Chesterfield keeper Tommy Lee.

Pic by Mick Cunningham



MacDonald fashioned the first chance after 10 minutes, the Welshman screwing his shot wide from a central position.

Cherries had a flimsy appeal for a penalty waved away by Premier League referee Andre Marriner after Pugh had gone to ground under a challenge by James Hurst in the 16th minute.

Fogden seized on a slack pass from Josh Thompson midway through the first half, only to drag his shot well wide of the target.

Spireites goalkeeper Tommy Lee was called into action to

parry a header from Thomas, the Cherries striker meeting Pugh's excellent delivery from a corner.

Chesterfield threatened for the first time six minutes before half-time when Thompson headed over following a Liam Ridehalgh free kick, with Simon Francis booked for a foul in the lead up.

As the first half drew to a close, Lester went close to breaking the deadlock, only for Flahavan to save the day for Cherries with a fine stop.

Fogden went close to opening the scoring at the start of

the second half, the midfielder stretching to meet Pugh's cross with a header that flew wide.

Flahavan again thwarted Lester, the Cherries goalkeeper diving full length to his right to claw away the striker's low effort which had been destined for the bottom corner.

Ridehalgh bagged what proved to be the only goal of the contest after 54 minutes, the midfielder's thunderous drive rocketing into the roof of the net to give Flahavan no chance.

Cherries supporters, who

had travelled to Derbyshire in their numbers, were convinced Bradbury's men had levelled, only for Cook's header to drop the wrong side of the upright.

A delicate chip from Pugh landed on the roof of the net before Lee saved smartly after Thomas had let fly with a crisp low drive from around 12 yards.

Lee got down to snaffle an angled shot from Thomas before substitute Symes went close to grabbing a dramatic late leveller, his strike blocked by a defender.

POMPEY 2011/12

August

6 Middlesbrough (A) . . . D 2-2
Norris, Varney
9 Barnet (H, CC) L 0-1
13 Brighton (H) L 0-1
16 Reading (H) W 1-0
Kitson
20 Bristol City (A) D 0-0
27 Cardiff (H) D 1-1
Kanu

September

10 West Ham (A) L 3-4
Varney, Norris, Halford
17 Hull (A) L 0-1
24 Blackpool (H) W 1-0
Huseklepp
27 Peterboro (H) L 2-3
og, Benjani

October

1 Leeds (A) L 0-1
15 Barnsley (H) W 2-0
Norris, Varney
18 Ipswich (A) L 0-1
22 Doncaster (H) W 3-1
Varney (2), Kitson
29 Derby L 1-3
Pearce

November

1 Crystal Palace D 0-0
5 Nottm Forest W 3-0
Huseklepp (2), Kitson
19 Watford (A) L 0-2
26 Leicester (H) D 1-1
Norris
29 Birmingham (A) PP

December

3 Coventry (H) W 2-1
Halford, Ward
10 Burnley (A) W 1-0
Norris
17 Southampton (H) . . . D 1-1
Ward
26 Millwall (A) L 0-1
31 Leicester (A) D 1-1
Futacs

January

2 Watford (H) W 2-0
Futacs, Mullins
8 Chelsea (FAC, A) L 0-4
14 West Ham (H) L 0-1
21 Cardiff L 2-3
Futacs, Halford
31 Peterborough W 3-0
Huseklepp (2), Pearce

February

4 Hull (H)
11 Blackpool (A)
14 Ipswich (H)
18 Barnsley (A)
25 Leeds (H)

March

3 Middlesbrough (H)
6 Reading (A)
10 Brighton (A)
17 Bristol City (H)
20 Birmingham (H)
24 Coventry (A)
31 Burnley (H)

April

7 Southampton (A)
9 Millwall (H)
14 Doncaster (A)
17 Crystal Palace (H)
21 Derby (H)
28 Nottm Forest (A)

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

Smith's familiar 'foe'
ON-LOAN Salisbury City goalkeeper Tommy Smith has competition on his hands at Chippenham Town – from an ex-White.

The Southern Premier outfit have signed former Old Sarum favourite Kevin Sawyer, pictured below, from Cirencester.

Smith will remain at Hardenhuish Park for the duration of his one-month loan, but it looks as though 31-year-old Sawyer will be the long-term replacement for the departed Will Puddy – now of Salisbury!

Chippenham keeper Adie Mings said: "Kevin was number one on our list once Pudds left and he'll do a very good job for us."

"Tommy is also with us for a month, so we'll have competition for places, which is what we want."



Dom goes for experience
TEAM Solent boss Dominic Cunliffe, below, has welcomed the arrival of goalkeeper Tom Taylor from Sydenhams One rivals Ringwood Town.

"Tom is an excellent goalkeeper and comes with a vast amount of experience which will rub off onto our younger players," he said.

"As a young, predominantly student-based team, it is vital we have some senior players of this stature who can help the squad in many aspects."



"I also want Tom pushing to make the number one jersey his own and, by having competition for places, help to make us a formidable squad."

Young goalkeeper Sam Cousins, 19, has moved in the opposite direction from Team Solent to Ringwood.

"This is a great opportunity for Sam to gain valuable Wessex experience," added Cunliffe.

Secretary search

AFC Totton require a new club secretary following the resignation of Norman Cook in December.

The successful applicant should also have access to a computer and the internet.

For further details, applicants should register their interest to chairman@afctotton.com.

OLD GUARD EXIT AS SPITFIRES



TOTTON MOVE: Ross Bottomley, right.

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

AS MORE new signings flood into Eastleigh, inevitably some of the old guard have had to move on.

Young frontrunner Andrew White had his contract cancelled by mutual consent this week as midfielder Ian Herring was starting a month's loan with Southern Premier outfit Chippenham Town.

Meanwhile 18-year-old former Portsmouth trainee defender Billy Tsovolos is returning to his native Australia to pursue a university career.

Both White, 20, and Tsovolos joined Eastleigh during the summer as part of the Spitfires' newly-launched player development scheme.

At the time, both fitted the profile the Spitfires were after – ambitious, young players released by Football League clubs who were looking for a route back into the professional game.

But some six months later, both have decided to go a different way.

Having shown initial promise at the start of the season, White – formerly of Reading and Gillingham – went off the boil and was loaned out to Blue Square Bet South rivals Dorchester Town.

But the Magpies terminated that deal this week and now his Spitfires contract has been cancelled too after consultation with his agent, ex-Saint Steve Wood.

Eastleigh boss Ian Baird, pictured below, explained: "Andrew felt he was under too much pressure from his family to become a professional footballer and he just wants to go home to London, get a job and play local football."

"He doesn't work hard enough to play at this level. He didn't turn up once or twice for Knighty (manager Alan Knight) down at Dorchester, so they sent him back."

"With Billy Tsovolos, it's entirely his choice to go back to Australia."

"Billy would probably have earned himself another contract here, but he



LOAN DEAL: Ian Herring,

didn't want to pursue a career as a professional footballer. It's because he's a nice character and a good lad."

Like Ross Bottomley, who recently returned to club AFC Totton, Baird got the green light for a host of quality new signings. But with the major sponsorship club owners Bridle and Hogan. And, although Royston Ricky Young set nerves jangling scoring with his first touch on 65 minutes, Bournemouth's ten men were strong for an historic victory.

"It was like the battle of the Alamo

Old boy Scott gives Poppies a lift on road

SCOTT Joyce admits his first priority rests with Poole Town – despite helping his former club Bournemouth Poppies take another step along the road to Wembley.

Striker Joyce made a surprise appearance in Poppies' FA Vase win over Royston Town on Saturday after dual registering with the Sydenhams Premier outfit on the eve of the fourth round tie.

The 30-year-old played his part as Ken Vaughan's men tore up the form book to seal a place in the last 16 for the first time in the club's 137-year history.

Victory earned Poppies – the lone

Wessex flag bearers – a long-haul trip to either Billingham Synthonia or Runcorn Town (who replay this weekend) in the fifth round on Saturday, February 11.

And whether Joyce features in the next round depends on whether Tom Killick, pictured right, manager of his parent club Poole, lets him.

Joyce, who works as a tree surgeon with Poppies goalkeeper Max Frampton, stressed: "I am 100 per cent committed to Poole Town and we are really close to the (Evo-Stik Southern One South & West) play-offs."

"From a personal point of view, it has been an up and down season for me."

"I needed some minutes under my belt and Tom was kind enough to let me play for Poppies in the Vase."

"I used to play for Poppies. I captained them and I go back a long way with Ken Vaughan. I used to play Sunday football for him at Parkbury."

"He wanted me to help them out and it will be up to Tom whether I



NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? CALL WENDY GEE ON 023 8

Non-league Football

ES HEAD DOWN BRIDLE PATH



right, has signed for Chippenham Town

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Spud – has dropped down the pecking order.

“Spud has got a tremendous attitude, but there are two or three ahead of him here now and he just wants to play football,” said Baird, revealing that Frome Town also came in for Herring.

“It’s disappointing with both him and Ross because they’re good lads and I’m also disappointed that things haven’t worked out for Andrew White.

“But some have got to come and some have got to go. It’s just the way it is in football.”

Having clinched the signing of central defender Gary Elphick from Eastbourne Borough at the back end of last week, Baird dipped into the transfer market again on Monday, bringing in classy midfielder Daryl McMahon from Boreham Wood.

Like Eastleigh’s new loan striker Bradley Bubb, the 28-year-old was a key member of the Farnborough side that finished BSB South runners-up last term.

McMahon, who started his career with West Ham, also includes Leyton Orient, Port Vale, Stevenage Borough and Cambridge United among his former clubs.

“The lad has undoubted quality and I know Boreham Wood were reluctant to let him go,” said Baird.

“His attitude is first class and he is very keen to be part of what we are trying to achieve here.

“He did well on his debut against Salisbury on Tuesday (a 1-1 draw) and brought us what we’d been missing – someone who can get on the ball and open people up.”

Ex-Saint handed Town role

EX-SAINT John Sainty has been handed a role in Ringwood Town’s new management and coaching structure.

The former AFC Bournemouth striker, a Saints academy director under Dave Jones during the late 1990s, has been named as head of the Sydenhams One club’s new youth academy.

The 65-year-old, who started his career as a youth team player for Tottenham Hotspur, has been tasked with ensuring Ringwood’s best junior players progress towards the under-18, reserve and first teams.

Sainty, who played alongside Ted MacDougall during Cherries’ 1971 promotion campaign, has a wealth of experience in coaching and management.

The former Reading and Aldershot striker made 134 Bournemouth appearances after being signed for £5,000 by Freddie Cox in February 1970.

Sainty went on to coach under ex-Cherries boss John Bond at both

Manchester City and Norwich before taking up his first managerial post at Chester.

An England schoolboy international, he also managed non-League outfits Glossop and Mossley and has held coaching posts locally with the old Lymington & New Milton club and Bemerton Heath Harlequins.

In a reorganisation of the coaching and management set-up, Ringwood have largely promoted from within.

Will Hegan will step up from his role as under-18s boss to replace the departed Wayne Lockey as first-team manager at the Canotec Stadium.

He will be assisted by Andy Graves when he takes up the post later this season and they will be joined by Steve Steele and Jim Edwards on the coaching staff.

Ringwood picked up their second consecutive win last Saturday, beating AFC Portchester 4-2 at home in Sydenhams One through Martin Edwards (2), Brad Tyler and Josh Brown.

Non-league News

Lockey lifts Lavvy

WAYNE Lockey’s first game in charge of Laverstock & Ford ended a run of five straight Sydenhams Premier defeats for the lowly Wiltshire club.

Lockey, below, who took an extended holiday after leaving the Ringwood Town managerial post, presided over a 1-1 draw at Horndean.

Alex Mirov gave the hosts the lead with a hotly disputed penalty, but Marco Zocchi equalised five minutes after half-time.

Zocchi, though, was immediately dismissed for dissent to a match official.

“It’s a shame we had to see out the game with ten men, but we weren’t troubled until they hit the bar towards the end,” said Lockey.



Arnie army on march

SYDENHAMS One leaders Verwood Town extended their unbeaten league run to 20 games with a 1-0 home win over Warminster last Saturday.

Craig Barnett chased onto goalkeeper Chris

Lynch’s long clearance and toe-poked past the keeper on 18 minutes.

“It (beating Warminster) puts more pressure on the chasing

pack, but all we can do is take care of our dressing room and our results. The other results don’t interest me,” said Verwood boss Adie Arnold, pictured above.



Stadium thumbs up BASINGSTOKE Town’s plans to move to a new purpose-built stadium have been welcomed by almost two-thirds of the community who took part in the initial public consultation.

From the 236 residents who filled out a questionnaire, 64 per cent said they were broadly in favour of the Blue Square Bet South club’s proposed relocation from the Camrose Ground to a site west of the Hilton Hotel.

That was more than double the 31 per cent who were largely opposed, while five per cent were undecided.

to Wembley

The wind was tricky and we rode our luck a bit, but we got what we deserved,” smiled Vaughan.

But he added: “I didn’t feel Jon Blake deserved a red card. The first booking was ludicrous. He had his back to the free kick and their lad just kicked it against him.

“And for the second yellow, he was booked for a tackle he didn’t even make. The referee booked him for intent when he was stretching to make a tackle. He did not make contact with the ball or the player.

“Jon will be a big miss for us because he set the standard in this tie and dictated the pace of the game.”



SCOTT JOYCE

Wessex duo step up promotion bids

SYDENHAMS Wessex League pacesetters Winchester City and Bemerton Heath Harlequins are among the 64 Step 5 clubs to have applied for promotion to Step 4 for 2012/13.

The full list is as follows:

Combined Counties League: Camberley Town, Egham Town, Guildford City, Molesey, Windsor.
Eastern Counties League: Wisbech Town, Wroxham.
Essex Senior League: Burnham Ramblers, Enfield 1893, Witham Town.
Hellenic League: Binfild,

Flackwell Heath, Shortwood Utd.
Kent League: Beckenham Town, Corinthian, Erith & Belvedere, Erith Town, Fisher, Herne Bay, VCD Athletic.
Midland Football Alliance: Causeway Utd, Coventry Sphinx, Gresley, Rochester, Stratford Town, Westfields.

North West Counties League: Barnoldswick Town, Bootle, Glossop North End, Ramsbottom Utd, Runcorn Linnets, Runcorn Town.

North Counties East League: Bridlington Town, Brighouse Town, Parkgate, Retford Utd, Scarborough Athletic, Staveley Miners Welfare, Tadcaster Albion, Thackley, Winterton Rangers.
Northern League: Bishop Auckland, Dunston UTS, Sunderland RCA, Whitley Bay.
Spartan South Midlands

League: AFC Dunstable, Berkhamsted, Dunstable Town, Haringey Borough, Royston Town, Tring Athletic.
Sussex County League: Lancing, Pagham, Peacehaven & Telscombe, Redhill, Three Bridges.

Sydenhams Wessex League: Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Winchester City.

United Counties League: AFC Kempston Rovers, Kings Lynn Town, Long Buckby, St Ives Town.

Western League: Hallen, Merthyr Town.

● Binfild FC’s application is subject to Leagues Committee consideration.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Ships ahoy at AFC Totton

EX-SAINTS striker Neil Shipperley will be paying a Valentine's night visit to AFC Totton.

The 37-year-old former Chelsea, Crystal Palace and Wimbledon star is manager of the Stags' next Southern League Red Insure Cup opponents North Greenford United.

The quarter-final tie had initially been scheduled for February 7 at the Testwood Stadium, but it has been put back a week because of North Greenford's involvement in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

Shipperley was signed by Saints from Chelsea for £1.25



NEIL SHIPPERLEY: In his Saints playing days, left.

million in January 1995. He left for Crystal Palace in October 1996 for a fee of £1 million.

Previously manager of Bedford and Walton Casuals, he took over at the helm of the Evo-Stik Division One Central club North Greenford on Boxing Day.

He is assisted at Berkeley Fields by one of his old Chelsea teammates Mark Nicholls.

Totton fans will remember Nicholls well from his playing days with Uxbridge and Beaconsfield SYCOB in the Southern One South & West.

Red Insure Cup quarter-finals: Chesham United v Rugby Town or Daventry Town (February 7), Thatcham Town v Clevedon Town (February 8), AFC Totton v North Greenford Utd (February 14), Hemel Hempstead Town v Banbury Utd

Sad for Sam

ALTON Town of the Sydenhams Premier Division have suffered a cruel injury blow.

Lively frontrunner Sam Knight, one of the Brewers' outstanding performers of recent weeks, faces a spell on the sidelines with a hairline fracture of the foot.

ALL ACTION: AFC Stoneham are pictured, right and below right, booking their place in the Southampton Senior Cup semi-finals with a win over Eastleigh Reserves.



ONE STEP CLOSER ST MARY'S

AFC STONEHAM are on course for a possible date at St Mary's.

The Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League side saw off Eastleigh Reserves 2-1 after extra time at Chestnut Avenue last Saturday to book their place in the Southampton Senior Cup semi-finals.

Stoneham got off to a flying start in windy conditions, taking a third-minute lead when Liam Hall headed in Patrick Blackmore's corner.

It was the prelude to a man-of-the-match performance by defender Hall, who kept Eastleigh's exciting teenage strike prospect Sam Wilson on a tight rein.

And, when Fulham and Leicester City trialist Wilson did manage to slip the leash, Stoneham keeper Danny

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

Chapman pushed his goal-bound free kick over.

The Spitfires eventually equalised on 64 minutes when substitute Joe Crook slid the ball under the advancing Chapman.

At that stage Eastleigh looked favourites to go on and win the tie, but a 73rd-minute incident changed the game.

Stoneham's Lee Hewett was pushed by a defender into a collision with Eastleigh keeper Jamie Banasco-Zaragoza, resulting in lengthy treatment for both players.

On getting to his feet, Banasco-Zaragoza evidently said something to the referee and got a red card for his

troubles, leaving left-back Ben Wilson to take over between the sticks.

Wilson held strong with a full-length save from Chris Knight to send the tie into 30 ill-tempered minutes of extra time.

And it was Stoneham who prevailed when Dean Higgins crossed from the right for James Hobbs to get across his marker and score at the near post.

"It was a fantastic cup match played at a high pace from start to finish," said Stoneham boss James Banks, who was without ex-Winchester City skipper Gary Fulker (injured), Dave Reading (holiday) and Luke Pothecary (work).

"There was little time really for either side to settle into a pattern of football.

"The early goal was essen-



tial and gave us something to defend.

"I think the squad warranted the win in a tight game to the final whistle."

Banks felt victory was just reward for all the hard work that has gone on at Stoneham on and off the pitch.

"Squad-wise I'm very lucky after a lot of hard work this year," he said. "And, off the field, Terry Chapman, the ex-Alresford boss, is helping with fitness sessions and pro-

viding great support in the background."

Banks added: "This win was also testament to the two years of hard work Mr Stoneham, (club secretary) Geoff Smith, has put in securing a 25-year lease on the Pirelli Sports Ground and keeping the club ticking off the field.

"As the on-field performance has become more successful, it's been more demanding on admin resources."

● In the day's other Southampton Senior Cup quarter-finals, Netley Central Sports beat Sporting Bishop's Waltham 4-2 on penalties after a 0-0 draw, while Bush Hill (Nick Kesby 3, Louis Moody, Liam Keates, James Lavender) caned Comrades (Luke Pilgrim) 6-1. GE Hamble Reserves (James Thomson, 2) complete the semi-final quartet, having beaten Sholing's second string 2-0 the previous week.

AFC STONEHAM: Left to right, back: James Banks (manager), Chris Knight, Kenneth Rowe, Paul Laurence, Liam Hall, Matt Freemantle, Danny Chapman, Chris Benham, Mark Gardiner, James McEwen (assistant manager). Front: Pete Hurst, Patrick Blackmore, Lee Hewett, James Hobbs, Stewart Beck, Dean Higgins, Luke Strange. Not pictured: Gary Fulker, Dave Reading, Luke Pothecary.



FULL RESULTS ROUND-UP IN THE DAILY ECHO ON MONDAY

Non-league Football

Magpies cash in on Ben's talent

HE was not involved for Brighton & Hove Albion in the FA Cup against Newcastle United today.

In fact, he will not be anywhere near the first team for a while - or even playing for the development squad any time soon, due to injury, *writes ANDY NAYLOR.*

But Albion are hoping to nurture their latest recruit, former Saints and Christchurch forward Ben Dickinson, so that he eventually follows the example of young Norwegian, Torbjorn Agdestein, who has slowly but surely progressed into first-team contention at The Amex Stadium.

Dickenson has been bought by Brighton from the lesser-known black and white-shirted Magpies - Dorchester Town of Blue Square Bet South.

The 18-year-old completed his move into the Seagulls' development squad last week on an 18-month contract for an undisclosed five-figure sum.

The fee will rise to six figures if everything goes according to plan and Dickinson matures

under the guidance of development coach Luke Williams into a first team contender.

Seagulls boss Gus Poyet said: "He is not a player we have signed for the first team right now, but he has got plenty of qualities. So many of the young players have improved under Luke.

"If we do the same with him we will have a player for the future. We are very lucky to be in a situation where we convinced the player and his family somehow that this is the right place for him."



BEN DICKINSON

Dickenson was flagged up by Poyet's scouting network and Albion saw off plenty of competition for his signature. Championship rivals Burnley and League One big spenders AFC Bournemouth were among the clubs interested in the former Saints trainee.

The move to The Amex is a meteoric rise, considering Dickinson was playing seven levels lower in the Wessex League for Christchurch a year ago before catching the eye with five goals in eight games for Dorchester.

Ankle ligament damage sustained in Dorchester's game at Salisbury at the beginning

BEN DICKENSON - The story so far:

- Born in London but moved to Ferndown, Dorset, when he was three.
- Played youth football for Bearwood and Poole Town before he was scouted by Southampton, aged eight.
- Left Southampton when he was 14 and took two months out of the game before rejoining Poole Town under-16s.
- Joined Christchurch and worked his way through their under-18s and reserves into the first team.
- Attended Ferndown Upper School, the same school as another Christchurch product Jody Craddock who went on to play for Sunderland and Wolves.
- Has A' levels in media, science and PE and was heading for university to study sports science.

of the month briefly delayed Dickinson's big opportunity, but it did not dissuade Albion from completing the deal.

The teenager said: "It was a bit of a waiting game as they wanted to have a look at some scans of my ankle. But once they looked at them, they said everything looked fine and they were happy to get the deal done.

"I just need to recover now, get my head down and show them what I can do. To play under someone like Gus Poyet would be a dream."

Youth drain a Priory pain

GRAHAM Kemp believes Christchurch are victims of their own success after becoming a breeding ground for young talent.

The Hurn Bridge outfit have seen a succession of teenagers move on to bigger and better things.

The latest talent to roll off the Priory production line is 18-year-old Ben Dickinson, who completed a dream move to Championship outfit Brighton & Hove Albion last week.

The Ferndown lad progressed through the ranks at Hurn Bridge before being snapped up - for nothing - by Conference South outfit Dorchester Town at the end of last season.

Dickenson follows a similar path trodden by Michael Green, another ex-Christchurch youngster, who earned a move into the Football League with Port Vale, via AFC Totton, before

returning to non-League with Eastleigh.

Priory boss Kemp, right, said: "Players like

Michael, Ben, Russell Cook, Tom Jeffes and Tom Price have all moved on to bigger things. If we'd had them on contract, we would probably have got some money.

"But if you pay one player you have got to pay others and it opens up a can of worms."



Flying winger Sam Griffin could be the next Priory youngster to attract higher-league scouts after turning in a series of eye-catching displays in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Kemp also has high hopes for teenage goalkeeper Tom Brown.

The 19-year-old recently caught the eye on his Priory debut against Winchester City in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

Brown, who replaced the injured Dan Loader, turned in an assured display and was blame-

less as City triumphed 3-1 at Hurn Bridge.

"It was a baptism of fire for him, but he came through with flying colours," said Kemp.

"Alex Pike at Gosport recommended Tom to me. Alex felt he wouldn't break into their first team in the near future, so he has been playing for our reserves and for Bournemouth Electric.

"He trains hard and is a good prospect."



MICHAEL GREEN

Non-league News

James in Town

FORMER Alresford Town centre-back James Davis has joined Andy Leader's new-look Lymington Town squad.

Davis was part of the Lymington line-up that beat his old club 1-0 at Southampton Road last Saturday in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Alresford were undone on 29 minutes when Danny Cox's free-kick swerved in the strong wind and crept in at the far post - much to the bewilderment of visiting keeper Chris Waller and the Magpies defenders.

Adam aboard

ADAM Aimable, a former Basingstoke Town and Winchester City defender, has joined Fleet Spurs from Sydenhams One rivals Whitchurch United.

Spurs boss Andy Hunt has also added Mike Ford from Knaphill and Hartley Wintney's Kevin Vallance to his lower mid-table squad.

Instant return

FORMER Salisbury City midfielder Wayne Turk has quickly repaid Cirencester Town's faith in him.

Ciren said they were "throwing the kitchen sink" at Evo-Stik Premier survival by signing Turk from Forest Green Rovers, who cancelled his contract by mutual consent.

And the ex-Old Sarum hero, pictured, obliged on his debut last Saturday, half-volleying a scorching 87th-minute winner in the 1-0 defeat of Redditch.



Motoring on

AMESBURY Town have a new main club and first-team sponsor in place for the next three seasons.

Starting in 2012/13, the Sydenhams One outfit will be backed by Express Motor Workshop.

Jason Cameron, chairman of the Wiltshire club, has thanked Independent Bookmakers for their sponsorship over the last ten years.

Brading plea

SYDENHAMS Wessex Premier outfit Brading Town have vacancies for an SWL fixture secretary and general club secretary for 2012/13.

An immediate start is required for both posts so that training can be given.

Contact chairman Paul Morris on 01983 407242 or SWL fixtures secretary Laurie Wallis on 01983 565078.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Bemerton rocking to Slade

BEMERTON Heath Harlequins answered their critics in emphatic style last Saturday with a 6-1 home humbling of Alton Town.

Questions had been asked about the Wiltshire club's Sydenhams Premier title credentials following a surprise 2-1 home defeat by mid-table Totton & Eling five days earlier.

But it took Danny Young just ten minutes to get them off and running against Alton and further goals from skipper Jack Slade (3), below, Joe Fisher and Joe Sanger completed a landslide win.

"After the Totton & Eling game, we spoke a few home truths and it worked," said manager Ian Chalk.

"We approached the game properly and we were superb. It was a fantastic win."

Chalk solved his goalkeeping crisis with a debut for former Shrewton United stopper Adam Burwell, who had been coaching with Bemerton in pre-season.

"Adam has a great attitude and is a smashing lad," said Chalk.

"He didn't have much to do, but what he did he did very well. He has an air and an aura about him and it helped the lads."

Bemerton needed a replacement for 19-year-old former Eastleigh and Romsey 'keeper Freddie Toomer who has been forced to rest a recurring shoulder problem.

"Freddie's been struggling for a few weeks," revealed Bemerton secretary Andy Hardwick.

"He's been in pain on and off and, as desperate as we are to play him, it flared up again in the Winchester City game and he's had to rest it. He still comes to all the games, but he needs a rest."

"Believe it or not, we had an outfield player in goal against Totton & Eling."

"Ollie Batchelor, a lad from the reserves stepped in, but he's a defender not a goalkeeper."

"We've been blessed with keepers in the past but they can be hard to keep hold of."

"We've still got last year's keeper Stuart Parsons signed on, but he plays for Shrewton and was cup-tied for our Wiltshire Senior Cup game and can't always play in midweek."



Hawks let Peacock fly the nest

LEE Peacock has left Havant & Waterlooville by mutual consent after being omitted from the squad for the last two league games.

The Hawks have terminated the contract of the 35-year-old Scot who joined the Blue Square Bet South club in June after leaving Conference Premier outfit Grimsby Town.

Peacock began the season as Hawks captain, but injury and loss of form restricted the former Manchester City, Sheffield

Wednesday and Swindon Town frontrunner to just 12 league starts.

He wasn't required to travel to either Welling or Thurrock with the squad last week.

"Lee leaves us on good terms," commented Havant boss Shaun Gale, pictured right. "Things haven't worked out as we'd hoped, but that's football."

"He's a fantastic lad and I would like to thank him for his efforts."

Meanwhile young Hawks goalkeeper Nathan Ashmore looks like

making a permanent move to Southern League neighbours Gosport Borough having lost his place to Lyaal Beazley.

Havant joined Eastleigh and Winchester City in the semi-finals of the Hampshire FA Senior Cup on Tuesday, seeing off lower league Sholing by a slender 1-0 margin at Westleigh Park.

Perry Ryan got up well between Sholing centre-backs Lee Bright and Dave Marden to head in Sammy Igoe's 15th-minute corner.



Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

DANNY Bowers has had a change of heart in forecasting the destination of the Sydenhams Premier crown.

Back in the summer the GE Hamble co-boss felt Bemerton Heath Harlequins' steady emergence as a top-three force would give them the edge this time.

But the longer this season goes on, the more convinced Bowers, pictured below, becomes that his initial hunch was wrong and that Winchester City – spearheaded by the extraordinary goal-scoring exploits of ex-Saint Jamie White – will prevail.

White was on target yet again last Saturday as Guy Butters' table-toppers clocked up their 21st league win of the season 3-0 at Newport IOW.

The Harefield hotshot now tops the SWL scoring charts with 28 league strikes. And unless his goal-den touch suddenly deserts him, Bowers cannot see Winchester's promotion-bound express train being derailed.

"As long as Jamie White keeps scoring goals, it's Winchester's title to lose," he said.

"If they carry on like they are and win their games in hand, they could win the league by eight or ten points and, if they do that, they will have thoroughly deserved it."

"People will say they're spending this and that, but so what? They've still got to win it."

"VT (now Sholing) spent silly amounts as a Wessex club without ever winning the title, so it's not that easy."

"I tipped Bemerton in the summer because of what's gone on in recent years and because Ian Chalk has kept the side together."

"But Winchester are much more stable now than they were last year."

"Guy's had more or less the same squad all season, whereas last year there were a lot of different players in and out."

"They have a level of consistency now which helps them massively and, unless they have a massive collapse, I can't see anybody getting past them."

"Newport's a hard place to go and for Winchester to win 3-0 there is impressive, particularly with the players they've got missing through injury. They've had no Mike Byrne, Tom Dunford or Alex Przespolewski but have still been getting results."



CITY'S WHITE GOLD

Jamie gives Winchester the edge in title race – Bowers



CHART TOPPER: Winchester City striker Jamie White.

they like to get the ball down and play. But we were just so strong as a unit and controlled the game in the right areas. It didn't matter if we won 1-0 or 10-0 as long as we went about it professionally and got back to winning ways. "We

had no Rory Williams (hamstring)

or Pete Castle (nose infection),

Lewis Fennemore played with a hamstring problem and came off after an hour, and Jamie Musselwhite played with a cracked rib."

Having elected to play against the wind in the first half, Hamble had a let-off when Linnets' lethal marksman Alex Baldacchino hit the crossbar after lobbing keeper Jon Webb.

The Planmakers felt aggrieved when Ashley Jarvis had a 'goal' ruled out for off-side, but all that was forgotten after the break as Richard Gregory, Jarvis and a Musselwhite penalty put them three up.

New Milton were then pressured into an own goal as they struggled to deal with substitute Ricky Rawlins' wind-assisted delivery.

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS – SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football

DE'ATH BLOW FOR ROMSEY

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

THE early loss of master marksman Simon De'Ath cost Romsey Town dear in last Saturday's 3-1 Sydenhams Premier reverse at Downton.

The defeat – Town's first in the league since November 8 – dropped them down a place to sixth in the table.

De'Ath, scorer of 25 Wessex goals this season, limped off with a pulled calf muscle after just five minutes.

Without him, Romsey fell behind on 23 minutes when former Salisbury City striker Declan McGregor was set up by Craig Lewis to score.

It stayed that way until the 82nd minute when Ross Gregory forced an equaliser from a corner to seemingly bag Romsey a point.

But Danny Urry restored the Robins' lead three minutes later following a flowing move involving Matt Palmer and Lewis, and McGregor completed the scoring with a stoppage-time penalty awarded against Town sub Callum Stanley.

"The lads were superb," beamed Downton boss Jeff Softley, celebrating a perfect pick-me-up after back-to-back defeats against Sydenhams Premier title favourites Bemerton and Winchester.

"Romsey are one of the best

sides we have played," he said.

"They are very physical and strong with a lot of good players.

"It just goes to show that we really can mix it with the best sides.

"Craig Lewis was absolutely on fire and they couldn't mark him. It was a great win for us."

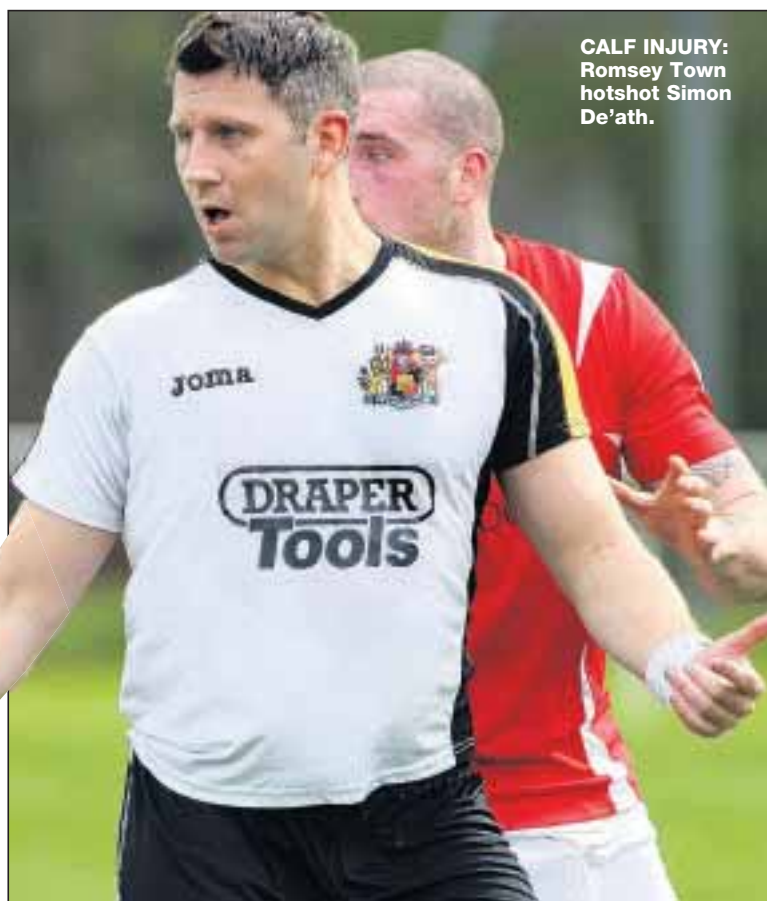
Romsey boss Wayne Mew felt a draw would have been a fairer result, but rates Downton a decent side.

"They've got some old heads like Vinny Rusher and two good lads, Declan McGregor and Nic Turpin, up top," he said.

"They played quite well, but I think a draw would have been fairer.

"They hit back two or three minutes after we'd equalised and the penalty in injury time distorted the scoreline a bit.

"The biggest thing that went against us was losing Simon (De'Ath) so early. But we took him off straight away, so hope-



CALF INJURY:
Romsey Town hotshot Simon De'ath.

fully he'll be back for Saturday's (today's) game at Alresford."

Town were shorn of dual-signed Eastleigh duo Jack Vallis and Liam Robinson who were recalled by their parent club in the wake of Romsey's Hampshire FA Senior Cup defeat at the Silverlake Stadium.

"I don't know what Eastleigh's reason was for calling them back," said Mew, a

Down and out

DOWNTON exited the Wiltshire Senior Cup on Tuesday, beaten 3-1 at home by Calne Town.

Both sides ended the game with ten men after Robins' Mark Keogh and Calne's Kris Beasley had been sent off on the hour.

Vinny Rusher smashed in Downton's late consolation.

former Eastleigh youth/reserve boss. "But it leaves us a bit short now."

Robinson was signed as a replacement for attacking midfielder/striker Ben White who has gone travelling for a month and won't be back until mid February.

Romsey striker Ryan Long, meanwhile, has dual-signed for Evo-Stik Southern Premier outfit Bashley, but it won't affect his commitment to the Bypass Ground club.

"(Bash boss) Steve Riley came to watch Ryan and put in a seven-day notice of approach. He'll only play for them when we haven't got a game," clarified Mew. "Ryan seems happy to play for us at the moment."

Long has dipped his toes into Southern League football before, but returned to Romsey after a brief stay with Division One South & West outfit Gosport Borough.

ADVANCE FIXTURES

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

Johnstone's Paint Trophy Northern Final 2nd leg: Oldham v Chesterfield (agg 1-2).

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: Eastleigh v Gosport Borough.
Division One East: Winchester City v Hayling Utd.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

Barclays Premier League: Swansea v Chelsea, Tottenham v Wigan, Wolverhampton v Liverpool, Everton v Man City, Man Utd v Stoke.

Npower Championship: Barnsley v Derby, Hull v Doncaster, Ipswich v West Ham, Leeds v Birmingham, Millwall v Watford, Nott'm Forest v Burnley, Southampton v Cardiff, Blackpool v Coventry, Crystal Palace v Brighton.

Npower League One: Charlton v Bury, MK Dons v Sheffield Wed, Walsall v Notts County, 19:45

Npower League Two: Southend v Swindon.

The FA Carlsberg Trophy 2nd rd replay: Hampton & Richmond v East Thurrock.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bashley v Chesham, Stourbridge v Weymouth.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Alresford v Hayling, Bournemouth Poppies v Blackfield & Langley, Horndean v Newport IoW, Laverstock & Ford v Romsey, Moneyfields v Totton & Eling.
Division One: Fleet Spurs v Tadley Calvea, Pewsey Vale v Amesbury, Stockbridge v Cowes Sports, Whitchurch v Ringwood.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE:

Aston Villa v QPR, Blackburn v Newcastle, Bolton v Arsenal, Fulham v West Brom, Sunderland v Norwich.

NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP:

Leicester v Middlesbrough.

RUSSELL COTES CUP

Second round: Winchester City v AFC Totton.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

SWL Cup: Brockenhurst v Alton

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: Dorchester Town v Fleet Town.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bashley v AFC Totton.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Blackburn, Norwich v Bolton, QPR v Wolverhampton, Stoke v Sunderland, West Brom v Swansea, Wigan v Everton, Man City v Fulham.

CHAMPIONSHIP: West Ham v Millwall (12:30), Brighton v Leicester, Bristol City v Leeds, Burnley v Peterborough, Cardiff v Blackpool, Coventry v Ipswich, Doncaster v Reading, Middlesbrough v Crystal Palace, Portsmouth v Hull, Watford v Barnsley, Birmingham v Southampton (5.20pm).

LEAGUE 1: Bournemouth v Exeter, Bury v Hartlepool, Carlisle v Chesterfield, Charlton v Rochdale, Colchester v Sheffield Utd, Huddersfield v MK Dons, Notts County v Stevenage, Oldham v Leyton Orient, Preston v Brentford, Scunthorpe v Walsall, Sheffield Wed v Yeovil, Wycombe v Tranmere.

LEAGUE 2: Shrewsbury v Port Vale, Aldershot v Bristol Rovers, Bradford v Crawley Town, Cheltenham v AFC Wimbledon, Crewe v Accrington Stanley, Gillingham v Hereford, Morecambe v Dag & Red,

Northampton v Macclesfield, Oxford Utd v Barnet, Plymouth v Southend, Rotherham v Torquay, Swindon v Burton Albion.

BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

South: Basingstoke v Truro, Bromley v Havant & Waterlooville, Chelmsford v Weston-super-Mare, Hampton & Richmond v Dover, Salisbury v Eastleigh, Staines v Welling, Sutton v Eastbourne, Thurrock v Farnborough, Tonbridge Angels v Boreham Wood, Woking v Dorchester.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Totton v St Albans, Arlesey v Hemel Hempstead, Bedford v Leamington, Brackley v Barwell, Cambridge City v Hitchin, Chesham v Banbury, Chippenham v Bashley, Frome v Oxford City, Stourbridge v Evesham, Swindon Supermarine v Redditch, Weymouth v Cirencester.

Division One South & West:

Abingdon Utd v Gosport Borough, Cinderford v North Leigh, Clevedon v Bideford, Didcot v Halesowen, Sholing v Hungerford, Taunton v Paulton Rovers, Thatcham v Mangotsfield, Tiverton v Bishops Cleeve, Yate v Stourport Swifts.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Alton v Fareham, Bournemouth Poppies v Alresford, Brading v Blackfield & Langley, Fawley AFC v Downton, GE Hamble v Bemerton HH, Horndean v Hamworthy Utd, Laverstock & Ford v Hayling Utd, Newport IoW v Moneyfields, Romsey v Christchurch, Totton & Eling v New Milton, Winchester City v Lymington Town.

Division One: AFC Portchester v Pewsey Vale, Andover NS v Tadley Calvea, Brockenhurst v East Cowes Vics, Cowes Sports v Hythe & Dibden, Fleet Spurs v Petersfield, Ringwood v Amesbury, Stockbridge v Verwood, Team Solent v Warminster, US Portsmouth v Whitchurch.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Division One: Clanfield v University of Portsmouth, Fleetlands v Paulsgrove, Hedge End Rangers v Hamble Club, Liss Athletic v AFC Stoneham, Locks Heath v AFC Aldermaston, Otterbourne v Sporting BW, Overton Utd v QK Southampton.

Combination Division: AFC Aldersmaston v Fleetlands, AFC Stoneham v Locks Heath, Liphook Utd v Clanfield, Paulsgrove v Otterbourne, QK Southampton v Liss Athletic, Sporting BW v Overton Utd, Winchester Castle v Colden Common.

MAGNATA CARE HAMPSHIRE

LEAGUE 2004
Motisfont v Andover Lions, Crusaders v Four Marks.

TrophyMan Cup, second round:

Upham v Durlay, Broughton v Botley Village, Fair Oak v Horndean Utd, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Portsmouth RN or Infinity.

HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP

Quarter-finals: Bournemouth Sports v AFC Portchester Res, Colden Common v FC Bournemouth, Moneyfields Res v Wimborne Town Res, Portcristian v Liphook Utd.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bemerton HH v Gosport Borough, Christchurch v Newport IoW.

WL Cup, quarter-final: East Cowes Vics v Fawley.

Division One East: Alresford v GE Hamble, Hayling Utd v Horndean, Petersfield v Fareham Town, Tadley Calvea v Whitchurch.

Division One West: Downton v Laverstock & Ford, Hythe & Dibden v Brockenhurst, Lymington Town v Romsey Town, Verwood v Totton & Eling.

FOR THE LATEST NON-LEAGUE GO TO dailyecho.co.uk

BOOK of the WEEK

You've Gone Too Far This Time, Sir! By Danny Bent

Sportsbookofthemoth.com
price: £9.99; [Kindle edition 77p]

If the wind and rain is having a disappointingly adverse affect upon your New Year's resolution, or should the recurring pain in your knees/ankles/ arms/back (delete as appropriate) be trying to persuade you that you're not *that* overweight, or if you feel ready to give up on your quest to acquire the body of an Olympic athlete, then read Danny Bent's inspirational book.

We get a sense of the author's approach to life in the opening pages when we're told that he graduated from Southampton University with "the highest honours in tomfoolery, indulgent buffoonery and mathematics."

The shock of then having to "get out...in the real world, find a job, build a life, start a pension, acquire life insurance, get married and start a family" prompts him to exclaim "I didn't sign up for this!"

From this point, we know this non-conformist character is about to embark on some form of epic, life-changing journey.

Danny Bent is not a celebrated sportsman, nor is he an as yet undiscovered sporting star, but his unconventional account of a bicycle journey he makes from England to southern India is the stuff of sporting legend.



He endures more physical challenges and discomfort than most Premier League footballers encounter in a season.

His indomitable spirit could win him a place in the national rugby team's front row and his never-say-die attitude is plucked straight from the pages of a *Boy's Own* adventure.

Readers have an immediate empathy with Danny as he travels with Shirley (the name of his bike) across 15,000 kilometres from a London classroom (he's a teacher) to Chembakolli's Vidyadaya School, set deep in the jungles of Tamil Nadu.

En route, he tackles everything from the industrial outskirts of Calais to spiritual gurus; he contends with driving prowess (or lack of it) in dozens of countries, but throughout he constantly pushes himself on, ever mindful of the different worlds through which he passes.

If the book has a fault, it's a technical one. Irritatingly, it is littered with spelling mistakes and odd punctuation which suggests that proof-reading and editing were something of an afterthought.

However, *You've Gone Too Far* is such a great story this hardly detracts from a tome that anyone struggling to maintain their commitment to a January resolution (or simply searching for sport-related inspiration) would be well advised to read.

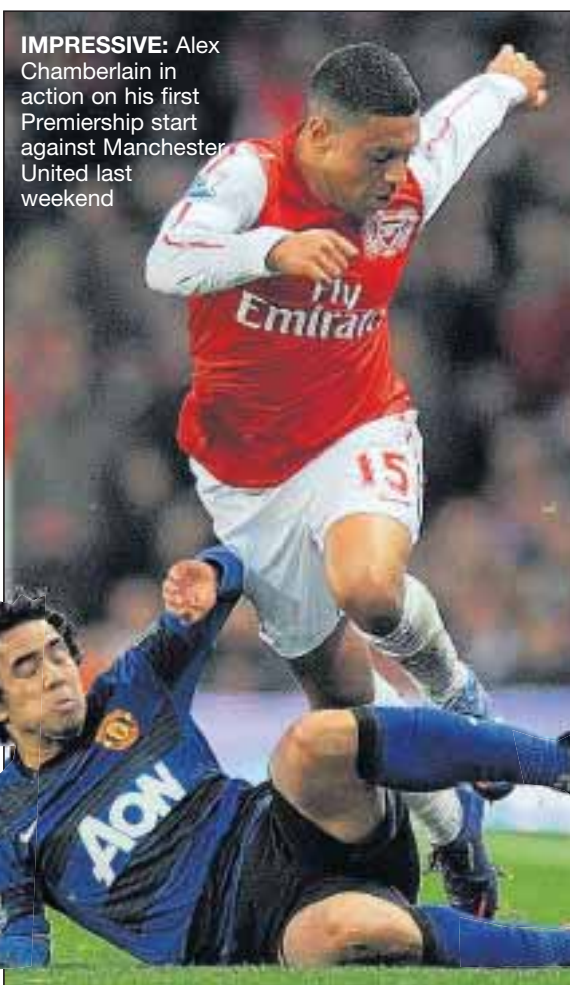


FLASHBACK: The Saints youth team pictured at The Dell, January 1980. Back (from left): Rueban Agboola, Peter Vachey, David Madden, Alistair Sperring, Joe Blochel, Ian Juryeff, George Lawrence. Front: Steve Richardson, John Pang, Steve Baker, Russell Burtenshaw, David Pool.



Alex: More to come

IMPRESSIVE: Alex Chamberlain in action on his first Premiership start against Manchester United last weekend



ALEX Oxlade-Chamberlain vowed to give Arsenal supporters more to cheer about after emerging from his full Barclays Premier League debut as a new fans favourite.

The former Saints academy starlet's performance was one of few positives for the Gunners after last Sunday's 2-1 defeat to Manchester United, with the Emirates Stadium crowd mesmerised by his pace and trickery.

And they were up in arms when manager Arsenal Wenger replaced the 18-year-old with the increasingly-unpopular Andrey Arshavin 16 minutes from time, something that backfired spectacularly.

But in between jeering the decision and Arshavin's entrance, fans also did not forget to applaud Oxlade-Chamberlain as he left the field.

"It's nice when you know the crowd are on your side," said Oxlade-Chamberlain, who joined Arsenal from Saints last summer in a deal believed to be worth around £12m.

"I can only repay them by working my hardest when I do get on and trying to impress them."

"But, ultimately, it's putting a shift in for the lads for the club and for the manager. So I'll continue to do that when I'm playing."

Despite his controversial withdrawal, Oxlade-Chamberlain did enough to expect to keep his place for this weekend's FA Cup clash against Aston Villa.

But the winger, who laid on Robin van Persie's equaliser, was fully aware he would need to keep performing to secure a run in the side.

"You can have one good game but the next one could be a bad one," he said.

"It was a nice performance from me and I thought there were positives for the team."

"I've got to make sure I keep my place now."

Starting against United was a big vote of confidence from Wenger, regardless of the decision to substitute him.

"I was happy to first get a start," Oxlade-Chamberlain said.

"Obviously, against opposition like Man United, it doesn't come any better than that."

He added: "That is a positive for me to take away, having the boss's trust."

"I've got to just make sure that I repay that with my performances and just working hard in training and when I'm on the pitch."

Oxlade-Chamberlain admitted United "punished" Arsenal's defensive mistakes - which included Arshavin's limp attempt to prevent Antonio Valencia setting up the winner - but insisted there were also "a lot of positives".

He was also adamant the Gunners could "definitely" close the five-point gap to fourth-

placed Chelsea.

"You just have to look around the dressing room," he added. "There's quality players wherever you look."

"We definitely know we've got what it takes and it's just about sticking together from now on and coming out of this sticky patch a better team."

That "sticky patch" is now three successive Premier League defeats, with only the FA Cup win over Leeds providing some respite.

Arsenal will be hoping Sunday's fourth-round tie does the same.

"FA Cup or league, we look to win every game," Oxlade-Chamberlain said.

It's nice when you know the crowd are on your side

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Premiership Spotlight

One downfall of too much cash

I HAVE always had the greatest of respect for David Moyes, attempting to keep Everton highly competitive in the cut-throat world of mega-wealthy Premiership big boys.

But some of that respect has gone following his extraordinary revelation that he attempted to place an Everton B team into the Conference.

He explored such an option a few years ago but was frustrated by the sheer depth of the non-league pyramid. "Four or five years ago I would have liked to have put an Everton reserve team into the Conference because it would have been better football for them," he said. "My hope was that we could have used Widnes' stadium as the home ground and that when Everton were playing away the B team would have played in the Conference there."

"That was my long (term) idea because I thought the games would have been better, more competitive and more realistic for the players."

"But we would have had to have gone into Division Nine of the North-West Outer Counties or whatever you want to call it and it would have taken 10 or 11

Simon Carter

simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS EDITOR

years to get through."

Yes, just like everyone else who has had to start again.

Just like Aldershot and AFC Wimbledon, who started off near the bottom of the pyramid and who have worked their way into the Football League.

Just like the new clubs that have been born out of the ashes of the now defunct Halifax Town and Chester City.

And no doubt just like Portsmouth would have to if Pompey were liquidated and an AFC Portsmouth or FC Portsmouth started up in their place.

That is way of the world in this country, and long

may it stay that way.

The arrogance of people like Andre Villas-Boas and Moyes is incredible.

Even the words Moyes, pictured, used - 'North West Outer Counties' - showed an unnecessary belittling of those clubs battling hard to win their place in the Conference by fair means, rather than just being handed out because Everton are a big club.

Or were, back in the days before football started to eat itself.

There was never such an attitude of 'we, we, we' prior to the rebranding of the old First Division into the cash-bloated Premier League.

Yes, a lot of good has come out of the creation of the PL, and certainly the attendances levels are far, far better than they often were back in the dark days of the 1980s.

Elsewhere in this edition of the *Sports Pink*, we look back to January 1982 when Saints stormed to the top of the Football League for the first time.

On the same day, Chelsea could only attract a crowd of under 11,500 for a home game in the second tier.

Luton Town, now a non league club, attracted a bigger attendance.

In the same division, Newcastle attracted a crowd of under 15,000.

Thirty years ago, and the football landscape was so very different to today.

Can you imagine Chelsea and Newcastle ever attracting such low crowds for league games again?

As I said, some things have changed for the better. But there was never the arrogance there now is among some of our country's bigger clubs.

Villas-Boas probably doesn't know better, as he is not long to these shores.

But David Moyes, to quote a song title from his fellow Scot Jim Diamond, certainly should.



Eddie: Villas-Boas wasn't 'offensive'

EDDIE Mitchell has backed the Football League following its condemnation of Andre Villas-Boas's comments surrounding the introduction of feeder clubs.

The Chelsea boss last week said top Premier League clubs should be allowed to field reserve teams in the Championship to help young players bridge the gap, writes **NEIL MELDRUM AND SIMON CARTER.**

Villas-Boas said England should follow the example of Spain where European champions Barcelona and Villarreal have second strings in the second flight of La Liga.

New Saints loanee midfielder Yago Falque was on loan from Juventus to Villarreal's B team last season, scoring 11 goals.

Football League chief Andy Williamson described Villas-Boas' suggestion as "frankly offensive", adding that clubs were "constituted as sovereign entities which represent their town or city with pride



rather than being a subsidiary of another club in another part of the country".

Cherries chairman Mitchell, below, said: "I didn't think the comments were offensive."

"They were realistic because Chelsea probably could put a B team in the Championship, like most of the other big boys."

"But it would squeeze everybody else out if the bigger clubs were to have two teams in the league and the rest of us may as well pack up."

"I don't think it would really help the football situation."

"Clubs are spread country-wide and a lot of people go to see their team whether they are in the Premier League or the fourth tier."

"I am happy with the way it is. We do battle with other clubs and that's the way it has been for years."

"It is a competition spread throughout the country and that's the way it should be."

What had also been the way of things for ages was the reserve team football.

From the restart of the Football

League in 1946 right through to 1998, Saints and many other top clubs entered their second strings in the Football Combination. The reserves regularly played over 30 league games a season.

That set-up was rebranded as the FA Premier Reserve League in 1999, with less games as a result of a smaller division.

It continues to this day, with north and south divisions.

But Manchester City, Stoke City, Tottenham Hotspur and QPR are not competing this season as all those clubs have recently scrapped their reserve sides.

Spurs, for example, got rid of their second team because manager Harry Redknapp preferred to send his fringe players out to other Football League clubs for them to gain experience.

Tottenham, like Liverpool, are taking part in a NewGen League this season featuring youngsters from foreign clubs such as Wolfsburg, Sporting Lisbon and Molde.

Saints also scrapped their reserve team two years ago, creating in its place an under-21 team which can contain over-age players and play friendlies.



ANDRE VILLAS-BOAS

Lucy off to Dallas

HAMPSHIRE referee Lucy May is one of only eight English officials selected to attend the Dallas Cup Youth Tournament in the USA.

The Dallas Cup is staged over a seven-day period ending on Easter Sunday and many of the world's premier clubs including Manchester United, Everton, Paris Saint Germain and Boca Juniors will compete.

The FA has identified this development opportunity and funded a place for eight candidates who are chosen from each of the Regional Referee Development Groups.

Ian Blanchard, Senior National Game Referee Manager at the Football Association said

"Many consider the Dallas Cup referee corps to be one of the best for a youth tournament."

"World Class referees, some of which are FIFA referees

with past World Cup appointments, take part in the tournament, providing the opportunity for these referees to operate with a variety of officials."

May, who referees Wessex League matches, said "When I found out I had been selected for Dallas I was ecstatic."

"This opportunity has been a stepping stone for so many of our top officials and to be given the opportunity is fantastic and something I will ensure I embrace fully."

"I am looking forward to it and hope it will help me in my bid for promotion."

May has only been a referee for seven years and has been part of the County Referee Development Programme.



LUCY MAY

Growing the game

THE Football Foundation's ever-popular *Grow the Game* scheme has now opened for applications to grassroots football clubs in Hampshire.

The scheme is closely aligned with The FA National Game Strategy, and sets out to help improve grassroots football across England.

This is achieved by offering grants of £5,000 over a maximum of three years to support a new football activity that aims to increase participation and sustain this into the future.

The funding helps train new volunteer coaches, and also goes towards facility hire, FA league affiliation, Criminal Records Bureau checks, publicity, First Aid provision and referees' fees.

Grow the Game is an extremely popular scheme and the assessment process is competitive.

The Hampshire FA are strongly recommending that clubs contact their own Neil Jolliffe before making an application.

Funded by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government via Sport England, the Football Foundation is the nation's largest sports charity.

Since it was launched in 2000, the Foundation has awarded around 8,000 grants worth more than £420m towards improving grassroots sport.

Contact Jolliffe on 01256 853016 or email Neil.Jolliffe@HampshireFA.com



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Non-league Football

■ BFA HAYWARD SUNDAY LGE

Electric shock

DIVISION THREE high-fliers Bournemouth Electric A suffered a shock 3-0 defeat when Redlynch & Woodfalls United Reserves toppled them with goals from Elliott Cromarty, Nick Scott and Adam Long.

Bisterne Rangers are just a point behind after Tom Faulkner, Sam Hills and Paul Adlam clinched a 3-2 win over FC Athletic while, at the other end of the table, Old Oakmeadians Reserves pulled off another excellent result when they won 4-2 at AFC Burton.

Only three points separate the leading four teams in the **PREMIER DIVISION** after pacesetters Bournemouth Manor went down 2-0 to goals from Robbie Woolner and Ben Virabi against Portcastrian who now occupy second place on goal difference.

Reigning champions Westover Bournemouth are third after Ali Paton (2) and Ed Ewens gave them the edge 3-2 against tailenders Redlynch & Woodfalls United, while Bournemouth Electric drop back to fourth place after their 1-1 draw with H a m w o r t h y Recreation whose goal came from Dominic Falco.

Martyn Solomon struck for Trinidad but Sway remain just two points adrift of the leading pack after Danny Veal and Dan Thorogood gave them the verdict 2-1.

George Knijff and Mark Frampton netted for Allendale but Old Oakmeadians extended their unbeaten run to three games when Dan Geraghty and a "wonder goal" from Lee O'Connell earned them a 2-2 draw.

Mudeford Men's Club opened up a five point lead at the top of **DIVISION ONE** when James Wright (2) and Mike Kitson secured a 3-0

victory over Ferndown Sports.

Harrington United's promotion hopes were dented when Sturminster Marshall surprised them 2-1 with goals from Rich Davies and Erkan Mete and FC Bournemouth also suffered a setback when Ferndown Town Greenfields shaded it 3-2 through Manny Ohameje, Mark Poole and Mark Brock.

DIVISION TWO pacesetters Westover Bournemouth Reserves returned to winning ways when Mike Williams settled the issue 1-0 against St Mary's but Richmond Park Con are lurking just two points behind with four games in hand after Paul Barber (2), Andy Harman and Mark Pudney accounted for Fordingbridge Turks 4-0.

South Coast Demolition's title hopes took a turn for the worse when they went down 1-0 to a goal from Neil Moran against Sway. Queens Park Athletic Reserves maintained their one-point lead at the top of **DIVISION FOUR** when they subdued bottom placed Milford 3-1 through Matt Farley, Alec Holloway and an own goal.

Nearest rivals AFC Pennington were also 3-1 winners when Tom Jourdan (2) and Ashley Buckland put paid to Ferndown Sports Reserves.

Dan Whitthorn (2) and Ben Sainsbury were the Richmond Park Con Reserves marksmen when the unbeaten **DIVISION FIVE** leaders swept FC Bournemouth Reserves aside 3-1.

Nearest rivals Screw-It Carpentry went down 1-0 to a goal from Tom Williams against FC Boscelona and Allendale Reserves take over in second place after Dave Webb scored both goals in their 2-0 win over Bournemouth Manor A.

SILVA TREBLE IS PURE GOLD FOR LEADERS

MARTIN Da Silva was on target again for PREMIER LEAGUE leaders Queens Park when he notched a hat-trick in their 6-2 victory over Christchurch Royals with Jamie Saunders, Shahram Sam-Daliri and Dave Clements also on target.

East Christchurch SSC are two points behind with a game in hand after Peter Old (2) and Alex Rossi gave them the upper hand 3-1 against Priory Quays, while reigning champions Branksome Con find themselves propping up the rest after Queens Park Rovers upended them 4-0 with goals from Sami Garcia (2), Sami Kaddah and Jake Ormond.

Tom Godfrey and Liam Currell scored two apiece when Springers opened up a four-point lead at the top of **DIVISION ONE** with a 5-1 triumph over New Star United, with the other goal coming via George Harvey.

Jack Swann, Gavin Vines, Martin Newbery, Liam Bartlett and Richard Hamshire gave Parley Sports the upper hand 5-2 against Bournemouth Athletic, while Nathan Connor and Richard Best gave Harry's Bar the edge 2-1 against Kavell.

The top of the table clash in **DIVISION TWO** finished all square at 2-2 with Simon Wong and Brad Molyneaux scoring for leaders Lovitt, while Paul Gregory and Luke Phillips replied for nearest rivals Creekmoor Lions.

Redhill closed the gap on the leading pair when they crushed Magdon Scaffolding 11-0 courtesy of James Vallory's six-goal blast and further goals from Steve Bristow (2), Dean Hindle, Brad Parnell and Chris Samuels.

Queens Park Rovers Reserves are eight points clear at the top of **DIVISION THREE** after sweeping nearest rivals KC Transport aside 4-1 through Ben Sullivan, Steve Miles, Dave Martin and an own goal.

Verwood SSC take over in second place after Chris Thompson scored all five goals in their 5-2 win over Three Cross, while Ferndown Locomotive just got the better of LV FC 3-2 thanks to Matty Groves (2) and Simon Ward.

The three unbeaten sides competing for honours in **DIVISION FOUR** were all convincing winners with leaders Shoulder of Mutton Reserves accounting for Oakdale Con 4-0 through Darren Miller (2), Terry Foote and an



HOP TO IT! Robbins Cup action from Branksome Railway's (yellow) 7-0 victory over Bluewood. **INSET:** Branksome celebrate their first goal.

own goal.

Danny Gibbons led the way with a hat-trick in Specialist Lettings' 7-0 hammering of Bournemouth Sports, with Lee Diaper, Tom Williams, Danny Young and Paul Delves adding one each.

Barton Wanderers were also 7-0 winners when they gave Boscombe Albion the treatment with Ollie Luchoomun tucking away four and Will Ireland, Shahed Miah and Dave Adams weighing in with one apiece.

AFC Ringwood go back on top of **DIVISION FIVE** after Sean Thomas scored the vital goal in their 1-0 win over promotion rivals AFC Stourvale.

Meanwhile, Hollies maintained their challenge when they spanked Strouden Sports 6-1 with a Dave Mountford hat-trick and further goals from

Steven Glover (2) and Kryzstof Hensler.

Ace hold top spot in **DIVISION SIX** after Aiden Kelly and Phil King gave them the verdict 2-1 against Wessex Wanderers with unbeaten Kings Arms Wallisdown a point behind with a game in hand after Mark Carrigan, Shaun Brooke, Paul Conroy, Sacha Navarro and Luke McArdle put paid to Wimborne Magpies 5-1.

Stephen Murphy's hat-trick proved decisive in New Milton Borough's 5-2 success against AFC Burton Reserves with Simon Webster and Adam Dale adding one each.

Newtown Rovers opened up a four-point lead at the top of **DIVISION SEVEN** when Martin Frigot (2), Adam Janes and Ashley Fudge ensured a 4-0 victory over Bournemouth Electric

Reserves.

Baillie Ttofalli struck for second-placed White Heather Hornets but promotion rivals Fiveways Rangers ambushed them 5-1 courtesy of Lee Cobb's four-goal blitz and a goal from Darren Greaves.

Cranborne increased their lead at the top of **DIVISION EIGHT** when Charlie Arnold (2) and Dan Adlem ensured a narrow 3-2 win over AFC Bransgore and nearest rivals Bournemouth Borough were unexpectedly held to a 3-3 draw by Carling Sports Reserves.

Tom Milne struck twice when **DIVISION NINE** front runners Scott V gave Boscombe Celtic Reserves a 7-1 drubbing with Kieran Davies, Kyle Greenwood, Lawrence Harvey, Sean Warrington and Gareth Wilson adding on each.

EMAIL TEAM SHOTS TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

Beasant on a roll in cup

A HAT-TRICK from Mike Beasant and a goal by Ricky Bull help Roll Call to a 4-2 win at Foresters AFC in the SFA Junior A Cup quarter-finals.

Jay Pike and Ash Simmons got the Foresters goals.

In the Junior B quarter-finals AFC Anchor went out 3-0 while Hoff Sports took their tie to penalties after goals by Martin Butt, Dale Davies, Glen Tucker and Roman Williams in a 4-4 draw. But they lost the shootout 5-4.

Andy Mantel, Dave North, Matt Rodaway and Dave Williams got the

■ SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT SUNDAY LEAGUE

goals as King George won 4-1 at Royale Marine

AFC Toynbee, 5-1 up at half-time against Woodmill thanks to Craig Davis (3), Steve Knight and Lee Walsh, squeaked through in the end 5-4.

In the S&D Junior Trophy Holbury United lost 2-1 after extra time having been 1-0 ahead through Mike Switzer.

In Division 1, Hamble Club and Otter were 1-1 at half-time but Hamble won 6-1 in the end with goals

by Billy Kelly (3), Mike Brown Mike Phillips and Matt Fray. Wayne Green hit the reply

Landguard Rovers crashed 4-1 at home to CSFC in Division 2. James Dillion's goal had them level at half-time but efforts by Dave Phillpott (3) and Martyn Randall were too much in the end.

Fair Oak Albion came back to win 3-1 against Prestige South after Sam Treadway's goals saw them trail at

half-time. Jason Dale, Greg Snellgrove and Craig King netted.

Roll Call Reserves went down 5-1 at home against C & G. Ben Hutchins got their goal but Paul Johnson's hat-trick and efforts by Ryan Gardiner and Alex Patterson settled it for C&G.

Coopervision were the day's top scorers, rattling in seven in their Division Four match at Kingsgate through Carl Hathaway (2), Michael Kowalski (2), Andrew Bester, Andrew Minchington and one own goal. Giles Munn scored Kingsgate's lone goal.

Social Club into the last four

■ MEON VALLEY

WATERLOOVILLE Social Club ensured they progressed into the semi-finals of the Dave Blunt Memorial Trophy with a 5-1 win over Division 3 side Travaux.

Goals from Mark Wood (2), James Hird, Ray Ogilvie and Luke Colyer saw them into the final four, despite an own goal giving their opponents a consolation.

Horndean United are also through after beating AFC Swood 4-1.

Dan Carter, Curtis-Jay Cottle, Calum Wallace and Andy Matthewson all found the net, with Dan Gregory scoring – and then seeing red – for Swood.

A superb hat-trick from Olabiye Oluwaseun and a strike from Mitch Creighton made sure Soberton United knocked out South Hants Glass with a 4-2 victory.

And Wickham Dynamos also progressed, thumping SDC 8-1 with a treble from Charlie Jackson, doubles from Martin West and Ben Jackman, and one goal from Paul Clark.

Ollie Jones bagged the beaten side's only finish.

In Division 1, Milton Rovers picked up three points at home to Farlington Academicals, George Tribble and Blu Boam netting in a 2-1 success.

Baffins Milton saw off Burridge 1-0, whilst in Division 2, Milton Rovers Reserves got the better of Alresford Athletic 5-2.

Danny Thomas hit a hat-trick, with Ricky Nother and Alex Croaker also scoring for Rovers, whilst Matthew Lickman and David Sheppard were on the scoresheet for Alresford.

In the third-tier, Heddeside beat AFC Fareham 1-0 thanks to a goal from Stuart Mason, and in Division 4 Waterloo Social Club Reserves defeated AFC Portchester 5-2.

Paul Fletcher 2, Darren Moth, David Silvester and Marcin Zielinski got the goals for Ville, with Tommy Dorsett and Sam Hodder scoring for Portchey.

And finally, Purbrook moved off the bottom with their first win of 2012, a 6-2 thrashing of Mead End, with strikes from Mike Pullinger, Glen Blackhall (2), Josh Sweetman (2) and Liam Cobb giving Brook a deserved triumph.

Totton survive a Bedes battle

TOTTON Town are up to fourth place in the Premier Division, after seeing off bottom club Bedes Lea 97 4-2.

Bedes led 2-1 at half-time with two Rob Peters goals but Totton came out guns blazing after the break. Tom Rafferty and Liam Hanlon were on target.

In the Senior Division, Eastbrook Harriers continued their poor season with a 6-1 thrashing against KRL.

Matty Gray (3), Craig Furner, Craig Swain and Lewis Crowton got the goals for KRL – four in the first half.

Eastbrook stay bottom with KRL up to fourth – with four games in hand. Jacob Quinton scored Eastbrook's goal.

Totton Cosmos clocked up a 2-1 win at Sholing Celtic, Ash Hewer and Mark Johnson netting the goals, with Craig Lyon Pulling one back.

Second placed Westwood Old Boys took on leaders Bursledon Towers in a top-of-the-table clash with second-placed Westwood coming from behind to win 3-2 with goals by Shane Collins (2) and Sam Barton after Ross Hickman's double gave Bursledon a 2-1 half-time lead. But the gap at the top is still ten points.

In the junior First Division, Revolution drew 2-2 with Anchor Redbridge. Revolution led 2-1 in the first half, Brett Hall and Ryan Lucas netting, but Anchor Redbridge pulled it back to 2-2 through Peter Lambert and Jason Warr.

■ CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LGE

In the second division, FC Salt (Chris May and James Langer) beat Carnival UK 2-0, while a Kyle Prieto goal had Itchen Manor level at the break but they lost 2-1 to Old House at Home, for whom Jon Cook and David Mason were on target.

Rob Paddon and Mike Bishop scored as Woodman beat Sports Mania 2-1. Luke Poutler pulled back one goal.

The tables show that FC Salt extend their grip at the top, eight points clear of Old House at Home, while Woodman, despite their first win of the season, stay bottom of the second division.

In the third division, Cherbourg came from behind to beat Sherfield English 3-2. Ben Johnson (2) and Darryl Coffin were their scorers, Toby Rogers and Adam Quick netting for Sherfield English.

Bridge AFC thumped AFC Bursledon (Matthew Neary) 3-1 thanks to goals from Liam Faulds, Danny Longman & Rob Elder and Chatwell Green saw off LH Galaxy by a thumping 4-0. Gary Klepp (2), Simon Cocks and Marcus Bevan were the marksman.

Bursledon remain top of the third division despite their defeat, a point clear of Sherfield English, followed by Cherbourg with 23 points, and Chartwell Green catching them up in fourth place with 22.

In the fourth division, Southampton Bhoys lost 2-0 to Newtown Athletic (Pawel Burdzy and Russell

West), while Chamberlayne Athletic Reserves thumped Obelisk 4-0 thanks to goals by Liam Fielder, James Long, Jess Stickland and Brandon Williams. Eastpoint beat Itchen Manor Reserves 3-2.

Southampton Bhoys still top the table but their lead is cut to two points, with Newtown Athletic catching them up.

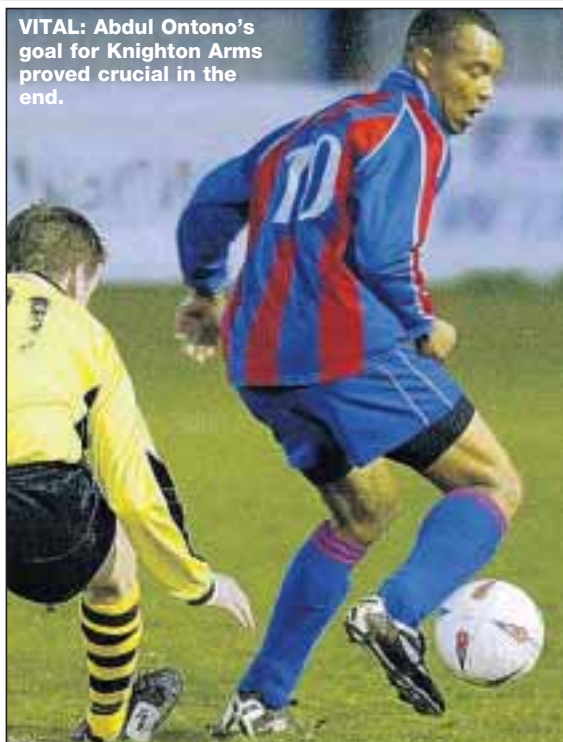
In the fifth division, Sherfield English Reserves beat AFC Bishopstoke 1-0, thanks to an own goal, while Dursley downed HSC Southern Stars 3-0 and Sporting Compass thumped Eastleigh Irish 4-0.

In the sixth division, Ampfield came from behind to beat Sporting Compass Reserves 3-1, Matt Patrick, Ben Wright and Ben Thornton on target for Ampfield and Sam Wilson scoring for Sporting Compass, while RS Ocean Village beat Unity 3-2 with goals by Ben Hawkins (2) and Akbar Shahand. Clint Norris and Shazar Rahman pulled two goals back.

AFC Southampton saw off Test Valley Spartans in a 7-2 demolition. Wesley Gray (2), Darren Bundy (2), Daniel Whitnall, Jamie Sevier and David Greenwood got the goals. Tony Kerton and Jack Edgerley scored for Spartans.

AFC Southampton extend their lead to four points clear at the top, with RS Ocean Village still third but with three games in hand.

VITAL: Abdul Ontono's goal for Knighton Arms proved crucial in the end.



Arms edge in

SENIOR Division Chamberlayne took Premier Division Knighton Arms all the way in the Southampton Divisional FA Senior Cup semi-final.

The match ended 1-1 after extra time, Abdul Ontono scoring for Knighton after Mitchell Turley had put Chamberlayne in front.

Ben Kneller, Shane Flocks, Liam Crook, Luke Watts and Lee New all scored as Knighton won the shootout 5-4.

Ross Merritt, Nathan Page, Josh McCarthy and Stuart McAlpine were Chamberlayne's successful penalty takers.

In the Hampshire FA Junior B Cup (sponsored by JD Fives) fourth round AFC Riverside (Sunday) scored through Andy Dance but went out 2-1 against Aldershot Sunday.

In the Southampton Divisional FA Junior A Cup quarter-finals Brookhill Saints Reserves and Winston Hotel also went to penalties, Brookhill squeezing through 4-2.

Luke Dunham had put Winston ahead in normal time but John Dinnematin equalised.

Not to be outdone, Regents Park won 5-3 on penalties against FC Railway after the match finished 4-4 after extra time.

Craig Verrall (2), Justin Bench and Jake Purdom were Regents Park's scorers, goals by Matt Taylor (2), Mark Bond and Sam McCarthy forcing the shootout.

Linden Tree won 3-1 at Riverside Magic (Joe Hinchliffe) with goals by Alwyn Short, Matt Camfield and Dan Jackson (penalty).

FULL RESULTS ROUND-UP IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Non-league Football



Hythe stage penalty coup

HYTHE Aztecs provided a huge shock in the SDFA Vets quarter-finals, defeating Questmap 4-3 on pens after a 2-2 draw in which Martin Jenkins and Tony Flood scored.

Sporting BTC were the big winners, inflicting a 6-0 defeat on AFC Stoneham, including doubles from Paul Williams and Jason Gosney. Sholing join them after a 4-1 defeat of BTC Soton, writes *Rod Sutherland*.

The semi-finals see Aztecs take on Sporting and Sholing face Nursling.

League action saw Colden Common seal a much needed 1-0 win against QK, thanks to Clive Eyre. GE Aviation were 3-1 victors at OT's, with Darren Smallbones grabbing a brace.

The B Division saw two 8-0 wins. Langley Tavern defeated Northend 8-0 with Darren Clark scoring four. Locksheath repeated the feat against Wildern OB's with Gary Woods the only player to score two.

Hedge End Rangers won 4-2 at Compton with two each from Andy Stinton and Brett Hyde.

C Division leaders Sporting BTC B fell 3-1 at Baddesley Pk, Dave Down with a double in the process.

GE Aviation made up ground with a 5-0 defeat of Priory Rovers Keith Kinchington with two.

Sholing B though crashed to a Mark Turnbull goal as Mich & Tims won 1-0.

Royal Mail won 4-1 at Langley Manor B with Mark Aveson on a double. Winchester OB secured a 2-0 win at Redbridge OB.

Final place for League

THE Southampton FL will have a team in the Southampton Senior Cup final after Netley CS and Bush Hill were drawn together in the semi-finals.

Netley shocked Sporting BTC as Dan Wooldridge proved the hero, saving a penalty in their shootout after the teams completed extra time without a goal between them, writes *Rod Sutherland*.

Bush Hill went a goal down against Comrades but turned it around, hitting Coms for six with no further replies.

Nick Kesby led the way with a hat-trick while Liam Keates, Lewis Moody and James Lavender weighed in with one each.

AFC Stoneham will face GE Aviation Res thanks to an extra time winner from James Hobbs which secured a 2-1 win after Liam Hall's early opener had been cancelled out.

Aviation had disposed of Sholing Res the week previous.



Semi-finals are thrillers

JUNIOR B CUP

THE SDFA Junior B Cup semis both proved tight affairs, not surprisingly with all four teams the top four in Junior 4.

Harefield were twice pegged back by Chandler's Ford before eventually squeezing home 3-2, Elliott Jordan with two plus Zac Glasspool.

The other proved a case of setpiece magic. West Totton went ahead with a fantastic free kick by Sam Wallace and Mark Cumber put them two up before an equally superb free kick by debutant Justin Penfold brought AFC Gulf Western back into contention.

Two thrilling ties and if the teams produce anything like this in the final we are in for a treat!

Semi-final line up, left, from the top: West Totton, Gulf Western, Chandler's Ford and Harefield.



UNDER CONTROL: Harefield launch an attack against Chandler's Ford.



CORKER: Sam Wallace's free kick puts West Totton into the lead. *Submitted pics.*

Thanks, brother! – Aiden to rescue

BROTHERLY love was never more welcome as **Wes Johnson** scored a spectacular 20-yard looping own goal for Cutbush.

His brother, Aiden, came to the rescue to secure Nursling a 2-1 win and remain in contention. Ross

DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE - SENIORS

was Jones their other scorer, writes *ROD SUTHERLAND*.

Forest Town are second as a Ryan Betteridge brace and Craig Shellard single earned a 3-1 win over BTC Soton.

Soton University led

through Sunny Kirton but Neil Barrett equalised late on for London Airways. AFC Hiltingbury avenged a recent mauling by Bishopstoke by inflicting a 3-1 defeat on the same opponents – Tom Richards with a brace.

Cadnam and Thornhill both took advantage of Netley's cup heroics by narrowing the gap in style.

Cadnam thumped BTC Res 8-0, including a pair apiece from Tom Glasspool and Paul Burnett.

Thornhill HK severely dented White Horse's lingering hopes with a 4-1 verdict courtesy of Daryl

Hobbs' double, Rich Brown and Marcus Bevan.

Lyndhurst emerged 2-0 victors at Durley Reserves while Hedge End Town won by the same score against local rivals Burridge.

Mich & Tims secured their fourth point of the season with a goalless draw against Comrades Res.

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Non-league Football



ACTION PACKED: New Forest Reserves (yellow) take on SG Sports. Right; New Forest's Rolan Barter is denied by SG's keeper Davie and defender Porter
Pictures: Stuart Martin. Order nos: 13787539, left and 13787706.



Wombles' wobble carries on

JUNIOR LEAGUE

STILL very tight at the top of the Junior League as Wombles drew for the fifth time at Soton Energy.

East Boldre secured a narrow 2-1 win at AFC Grains on a Gray day - Nathan Gray with both Boldre goals and Simon Gray for Grains, writes **ROD SUTHERLAND**.

Veracity rejoined the chasing group with a 3-2 win at Compton, Ben Kneller with a brace.

Park won 3-1 at Otterbourne with Fowler bros Luke and Ian plus Mike Graham sharing the honours.

QK Soton A had a vital 4-2 win at close rivals Langley Manor in Junior 2, although Ben Bradley's hat-trick kept Hedge End Rangers on their tails with a 4-0 win at Inmar. Questmap were 2-1 winners over local rivals Hamble Utd and Solent Saints won 4-1 at Wellow.

Junior 3 leaders Compton Reserves needed a late equaliser to snatch a draw at Chandler's Ford Rangers.

Forest Town Reserves made up ground with a 4-0 defeat of Capital, Rich Adames with a pair. FC Wellington also moved into contention with a 3-0 defeat of AFC Gordons. Mike Fielden scored two as Bricklayers secured a point at Riverside in a 2-2 finish. Infinity Res won their derby with Cricketers Eastleigh with a narrow 3-2 outcome.

Mike LeRosa scored both Brigadier Gerard goals as they won 2-0 at New Forest while Good Companions won 4-1 at Priory in a diminished Junior 4 programme.

Good day for Bitterne Park Hotel who won 6-0 at Riverside Res - they even had their cause helped as Stanton and Horton Heath dented each others' challenge by drawing three each.

Botley Village A were 2-0 victors at local enemy Hamble Utd Res and Athletico Romsey had a fine 5-1 win at Freemantle.

Michelmersh & T A gained their first Junior 6 point in a 2-2 draw with AFC Station, thanks to Stuart Morris and Aaron Seymour.

New Forest Res thumped nearest rivals S & G Sports 6-0 with Gary Stoner hitting a hat-trick.

Amphill edged Sporting Wessex 2-1 thanks to Daryl Gilmartin and Mike Dunningham.

An own goal proved crucial as Coxford defeated Burridge 2-1. Botley Village Res needed extra time and penalties to see off Upham Res in the Vase.

Sports are stunned by Stoner hat-trick

NEW Forest reserves went three points clear at the top of Drew Smith Junior Six after winning their six-pointer against nearest rivals SG Sports.

Gary Stoner scored a first-half hat-trick after Mark Coward's eighth-minute opener to put the game beyond their nearest rivals by half-time.

Goal difference separated the sides before they clashed at Southampton Sports Centre, where New Forest's 6-0 win also boosted their formidable goal difference.

Player manager Nathan Challis said: "It was a brilliant win for us, we scored four goals in the first half so the game was effectively over at the break."

"Gary scored an

Simon Walter
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

excellent hat-trick. His first goal was a volley from a tight angle that doubled our lead.

"His second resulted from a mistake by their goalkeeper and was a bit of a fluke. But Gary deserves some credit for charging down the clearance, which hit him on the head and lobbed into the back of the net.

"His hat-trick goal was another good one, a volley which put us in a great position at half time."

SG proved tougher opposition in the second half.

"They played better than us after the break," admitted centre-half Challis.

ALL SMILES:

Gary Stoner, left, celebrates a goal.

Order no: 13787738



PICK THAT OUT! SG Sports players mass in front of Gary Stoner but his shot still finds the net.
Order no: 13787689

"It was very windy and they had the sun in their eyes in the first half, but they did their best to break us down in the first 15 minutes after the restart.

"But we held out and scored two more on the counter attack. We scored an excellent team goal, with several passes leading to Rolley

Barter getting the fifth from close range after great work from Lee McStay on the right of midfield.

"We wrapped it up with a penalty from Lee Farminer and were surprised it wasn't a tougher game."

New Forest's win leaves them three points clear with a game still in hand on last week's opponents.

"We've got seven games left and the league should be ours now," continued Challis. "It might not be ours mathematically but we're on a very good run."

"We've only lost one game and that was back in September, when we went down 3-2 with a below-strength team against AFC Station."



NEW FOREST RESERVES: Pictured left to right, back: Michael Bartlett, Lewis Taylor, Nathan Challis, Carl Williams, Mark Coward, Lee Farminer. Front: Jamie Cooper, Stuart Bridle, Dexter McLean, Gary Stoner, Rolan Barter, Danny Watts.
Order no: 13787595



SG SPORTS: Pictured left to right, back: J.Greenough, P.Greenough, Mark Longland, J.Davie, J Greenough, M. Burton, N.Bennett, D. Porter. Front: unknown, G.Cottie, S. Greenough, M. Longland, A. Drewery, W. Young and W. Pretty.
Order no: 13787638

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Youth Football

Sky Blues fly high as QK draw

■ YOUTH FOOTBALL

QK SOUTHAMPTON dropped their first points in Division 1 of the City of Southampton Youth League under-18 by division – held to a goal-less draw by Burridge, **writes ALAN JOHNS.**

The setback allowed Sky Blues into top spot with a 2-1 win against Salisbury City.

Burridge had an escape when Pete Jacobs cleared off the line. But they had several chances with Jacobs denied by the keeper's body. Glenn Littleboy also had a fine shot saved. New Forest United will be harbouring hopes of runners-up spot after a 5-0 win over strugglers Baddesley Park.

Eastbrook Harriers shaded the mid-table meeting with Crofton 3-2.

Romsey Town, who still lead Division 2, had a 3-2 win at Littleton Juniors. Alresford Town (CSYL), who have been building a head of steam, saw off Mich & Tims Athletic 10-1.

AFC Stoneham are still in with a shout in third place with games in hand. They scored a 4-0 victory at bottom-placed Alresford Town.

Sway, top of Division 3, swept into a two-goal lead against Mich & Tims Colts with a tremendous James Goodwin strike and Dan Marshall netted following a corner The predatory Smart hit two more.

M&T pulled one back but Luke Gorton scored Sway's fifth after the break and Marshall netted a sixth.

Man-of-the-match Smart then completed his hat-trick and he quickly added a fourth before M&T grabbed a second consolation goal.

Although St Francis Rangers only managed a 2-1 victory at Itchen Royals the two teams are still locked at the top with Hythe & Dibden. The Waterside team were impressive 5-0 winners at home to AFC Hiltigbury.

The next two sides, Wyvern and Botley Village Dynamos, drew 1-1.

● In Under-16 Division 1, AFC Totton, stalking leaders Eastleigh, missed an opportunity to overtake in a 1-1 draw at home to Winchester City White.

Eastleigh only needed a single goal to beat Winchester City Red.

Sholing White won 3-1 at Cherbourg and their Red outfit drew 3-3 with visitors Hythe & Dibden. Salisbury City won 1-0 at winless St Francis Rovers.

Totton & Eling are unbeaten and lead Division 2 by a point after winning 3-0 at Colden Common, but S&D are chasing. They beat Bitterne 3-1.

The 'BTC Battle' saw the Stoneham side just have the better of Athletic 3-2 to stay third. Chamberlayne Athletic leap-frogged Colden Common Colts with a 4-3 victory against them.

The Division 3 top-of-the-table clash between AFC Stoneham and BTC (Soton) Spartans ended 1-1, leaving the former still marginally ahead on goal-difference. Mathew Ireland was on target for Spartans.

New Forest stay third after winning 3-1 at Townhill Lingland Panthers with goals by Luke Hobson, Jordon Grant and Brad Raynsford.

Romsey Town are fourth after a 5-2 home win against Sarisbury Sparks, Blackfield & Langley thumped seven past Wyvern and Botley Village won 5-2 against visitors Burridge.

Maths on hold

MATHS and General Science lessons will be put on hold for two days next week when Bitterne Park's year ten students travel to West Cornwall in a bid to reach the quarter-finals of the English Schools FA Under-15 Cup.

Penryn School, near Falmouth, is the Cornish destination for football coach Alan Gordon and his team, who are aiming to reach the last eight of the national competition for

the first time.

Bitterne Park, who also reached the last 16 three years ago, set off on a gruelling 420-mile round trip on Monday lunchtime in preparation for an 11.15am kick off the following morning.

The Southampton side are quietly confident of getting a positive result in the West Country and will be looking to little midfielder Adam May and striker Matt Evans to boost their prospects.



ADAM MAY

Poole can line up a home tie

A HOME quarter-final tie in the English Schools Under-15 Trophy is the incentive for Poole & East Dorset to win in South Wales on Tuesday night.

If they beat Swansea at the famous St Helen's Ground, they will play Vale of White Horse, from Oxfordshire, at home for a place in the semi-finals.

It is the second round running Poole have crossed the Welsh border – their last

round 5-4 extra-time win over Newport having been achieved on foreign soil.

It could be an all-Poole Dorset Schools Cup final.

Cup holders Poole High lined up a semi-final showdown with Gillingham after beating Thomas Hardy 4-0 with goals by Matt Barfoot (2), Sam Bayston and Nick Patrick.

In the opposite half of the draw, Poole Grammar square up against Tyneham, from Christchurch.

ITCHEN TREBLE MAKES HISTORY

ITCHEN achieved semi-final wins in first, second and third XI cup competitions this week – the first college ever to reach Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges Cup finals at all three levels in the same season.

■ COLLEGE FOOTBALL by Mike Vimpany

The first team came from behind to win 4-1 at Alton and set up a repeat of last year's final against Sparsholt, who beat Brockenhurst by an identical scoreline.

Itchen certainly didn't start well

on Alton's tight pitch – a near post Will Phillips header looping over Ross Casey to give the hosts an early lead.

Itchen started to get their passing game together and equalised with an excellent strike from Izaak McLean, who finished off a neat passing movement.

McLean doubled his tally on the hour, with an equally good individual goal.

An incisive Zac Anderson pass put McLean through on goal, and he kept his feet and his nerve to stroke the ball past the advancing Alton keeper.

Callum Oliver sealed the win for Itchen on 75 minutes, slipping past a defender on the edge of the box and firing an angled shot home to make it 3-1.

Captain Zac Anderson completed the scoring when a free kick from the touchline crept through a crowded penalty area and nestled in the net.

Sparsholt, hit for six by Itchen in last year's final, also fell behind before turning the tables on Brockenhurst, who held them to a 2-2 draw in the HCL earlier in the season.

Nick Elliott made several fine saves before Malachi Gayle

equalised for Sparsholt midway through the first half.

The Agricultural College then took the lead with a 25-yard thunderbolt from Luke Ginger, which rocketed past Elliott off the underside of the bar.

"It was certainly a contender for our goal of the season," quipped Scott Cairey, Sparsholt's sports academy manager.

Sparsholt scored a crucial third goal right on half-time – central defender Ryan Gregory heading home a Hayes Thomas free kick.

Adam Kay's sending off made Brock's task harder as Ryan Inskip rounded off the scoring from another Thomas free kick.

Itchen's 2nd XI Cup semi-final against Farnborough at Test Park was a tense affair.

They hit the woodwork on five separate occasions, but the score remained 0-0 after 90 minutes.

The deadlock was finally broken in the second period of extra time, with Itchen running out 1-0 winners.

Brockenhurst beat Taunton's 2-0 in the other semi-final.

The New Forest college pushed Itchen's 3rd XI all the way in their Test Park semi-final, but were edged out 3-2 – Itchen scoring a last gasp winner.



PLAY IT AGAIN: Sparsholt will face Itchen in a repeat of last season's Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges Cup final.



HOT SHOTS: Shooters FC Under-11 team who were victorious on Saturday against a strong Manor Colts side in the Hampshire Cup semi-final at Wherwell. The final will be on March 3 against Fareham Youth.

See Monday's Echo for all the weekend's results/tables

Youth Football

Great Granley

Hythe Strikers U15 2
Granley Stoneham U15 3
GRANLEY Stoneham under-15s continued to put a disappointing first half of the season behind them with a stunning victory at Tyro League Division 4 leaders Hythe Strikers.

Goalkeeper Sam Tyler had a brilliant game, while the rest of the team all played a part in the impressive win.

Liam Harfield, with a hat-trick, was Granley's goal-scoring hero.

Buzzing Bees

CSA Astros U10 1
Braishfield Bees U10 3
BEES got back to winning ways after the festive break with a fine team display.

They had a flying start with two goals in the opening five minutes, a fantastic solo effort by Cameron Moody and a Jonny Palmer strike from midfield.

CSA struck back quickly and for much of the game the two sides were evenly matched.

In blustery conditions Seb Gay's handling was impeccable with Ben Pearce and Dan Orr resolute in defence against skilful CSA strikers.

Alex Jones sealed the points with an unstoppable left-foot shot.

King John ...

Romsey Panthers U15 5
Pirelli Pirates U15 0
PANTHERS progressed to the semi-finals of the Tommy Trainer Cup with a comfortable win, inspired by the outstanding John Comer, who scored one goal and set up three.

Jordan Barnes was back on goal scoring form as well, netting a hat-trick.

It took 20 minutes to break the deadlock, substitute Fraser Harrison running onto Comer's through ball, holding off a defender and scoring into the corner.

Comer made it 2-0 with a shot from the edge of the box.

Romsey were in control as the second half progressed but Pirates' keeper kept them in it with a string of fine saves. There was nothing he could do when Andy May strode forward and threaded an inch-perfect ball through for Barnes to finish confidently.

Confidence boosted, he went on to claim his third hat-trick of the season.

Romsey romp

Romsey Youth U16 5
Sarisbury Green U11 1
CRUEL wind conditions contributed to Sarisbury's opener after 26 minutes but a well taken effort by Seb Olingslager brought Romsey even at half-time.

Romsey upped the tempo after the break and secured the points with goals from Olingslager, Adam Donaldson (2) and James Rumbold.

Eastleigh & District Mini League under-ten Jim Pearson Cup picture special



● AFC Hiltingbury (red) v Southbrook FC (blue). Order no: 13791718



● Hamble United Orange celebrate scoring against Hythe and Dibden Hornets. Order no: 13791992



Order no:
13791740



● AFC Hiltingbury (red) v Southbrook FC (blue). Order no:13791798



● Hythe and Dibden Hornets (green) v Hamble United Orange. Order no: 13791947



● AFC Hiltingbury (red) v Southbrook FC (blue). Order no: 13791777



● Southbrook FC celebrate a goal against AFC Hiltingbury. Order no: 13791882



● AFC Hiltingbury (red) v Southbrook FC (blue). Order no: 13791803

YOUTH FOOTBALL RESULTS APPEAR IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Youth Football

Eastleigh & District Mini League under-ten Jim Pearson Cup picture special



● Salisbury City celebrate after beating Colden Common Royals on penalties. Order no: 13791997



● AFC Hiltingbury (red) v Southbrook FC. Order no: 13791849



● Hythe and Dibden Hornets (green) v Hamble United Orange. Order no: 13791897



Order no: 13791922

Daily Echo
pictures by
**STUART
MARTIN**



● Hythe and Dibden Hornets (green) v Hamble United Orange. Order no: 13791979



HYTHE AND DIBDEN HORNETS U10 Order no: 13791677



AFC HILTINGBURY U10 Order no: 13791665



SOUTHBROOK FC U10 Order no: 13791639

Long late show

Wellow Youth U8 3
Warsash Wasps Yellow U8 2
WELLOW started the brighter and winger Matthew Shobbrook provided quick service for George Ludlam to score.

Warsash quickly equalised, despite extraordinary goalkeeping from Billy Galton and an accomplished defensive performance from Matthew Webb.

But, just before half-time, a mistake by the Warsash goalkeeper saw Wellow's William Gale hit a long range shot in off a post.

Warsash equalised after half-time but, just before the end, Otis-Rees Long scored the winner from another perfectly timed cross by Matthew Shobbrook.

Raphael stars

Braishfield Bees U8 2
Hatch Warren U8 1

THE Bees narrowly edged a closely fought game with two well taken goals by Raphael Mollinson, who also picked up the man-of-the-match award.

The Bees had to defend for long periods but showed good movement and passing in attack.

Theo sets tone

Romsey Town Panthers U12 1
Wellow U12 4

WELLOW took the bragging rights and a place in the semi-finals of the Tommy Trainer Cup with victory at rivals Romsey Town.

After a sequence of unproductive Wellow corners a long range Theo Wolfarth shot put Wellow one up. Eason Ryan, Louis Rendall and Sam Hilton kept possession to the pressure.

Another Wolfarth shot, partially saved by the excellent Romsey keeper, was converted by James Skeates.

The second half saw Romsey show why they are in the Division 5 promotion race. They had most of the early pressure, rewarded with a goal.

The Wellow central defence of James Cater and Charlie Davis was solid and they sealed their victory after a great interchange of passes between Wolfarth and Skeates led to Jed Musslewhite calmly slotting home.

Well fought

Wellow U14 1

Oakwood Terriers U14 2

TEN-man Wellow went out of the Tyro Cup at the quarter-final stage in a blaze of glory in a thrilling encounter against Division 1 high-fliers Oakwood.

Illness to Craig Seeney and early injuries to Ollie Lambert and James Brand left Wellow with ten men against one of the best sides in local youth football.

But they put up one of their most determined displays, Guy Johnson netting a second-half leveller before Terriers bagged a late winner.

ORDER PICTURES ONLINE AT dailyecho.co.uk

Katich on the losing side in t20 final

HAMPSHIRE'S Simon Katich was on the losing side in the final of Australia's Big Bash t20 competition this morning.

Katich, who returns to the Rose Bowl as Hampshire's overseas player this summer, saw his Perth Scorchers side fall to a seven-wicket defeat to rivals Sydney Sixers, who had opted to drop former Hampshire star Michael Lumb from their line-up for the final.

The former Australia left-hander, pictured below, was already assured of a place in this year's Champions League as both finalists were handed a spot, but he was unable to claim a winner's medal in a one sided final at the WACA.



After choosing to bat first, Perth got off to a disastrous start as openers, Herschelle Gibbs and former Bashley wicketkeeper Luke Ronchi, were dismissed with just two runs on the board.

However, former Hampshire star Marcus North (22) and Mitchell Marsh orchestrated a recovery.

Marsh eventually carried his bat for 77 and, with cameos from ex-England ace Paul Collingwood (32) and Katich (12), Perth were able to post 156-5 from their 20 overs.

Former Australia pace ace Brett Lee and Mitchell Starc were the stars of the Sixers' bowling attack, picking up two wickets apiece.

Any chance of the Scorchers defending that total were soon blown away by Sydney openers Moises Henriques and Steve O'Keefe.

Henriques blasted 70 off just 41 balls, in an innings which included six fours and four sixes, while O'Keefe crafted a more sedate 48 from 46 balls to get the Sixers off to a running start, leaving Steve Smith (21 not out) to get their side over the line with seven balls remaining.

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

Mor(gan) the merrier?



FLASHBACK: Hampshire win the 2010 t20, but how many games will the tournament have under the Morgan Review?

THE Morgan Review proposals have divided opinion amongst supporters of county cricket, but they are yet to be ratified after a meeting at Lord's this week.

Hampshire chairman Rod Bransgrove was at headquarters with representatives from the other 17 counties, the ECB and the MCC to discuss how the county landscape should look come 2014.

Nothing was finalised, with all views to be reported back to the ECB Board at its next meeting in March.

But there seems little sense in one possible outcome for the dear old County Championship.

What should be the most cherished county competition has been improved by the introduction of the two-division format 12 years ago.

But to even think about reducing the number of games played, while retaining the two-divisions-of-nine format, would turn it into a farce.

It would not be taken seriously if the 18 counties were not able to play each other twice over the course of the season.

The trophy would be tarnished and the gloss taken off the winners' medals, which would be very harsh on all the players but particularly the champions after a summer of hard graft.

It has been suggested that a seeding system would help compensate this.

Nonsense.

Even more priority would be given to the Twenty20 competition, which is set to be played on an even bigger scale.

Review results will be intriguing ... for all forms of the game ...

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER



More on that later, but the much-maligned Championship is the foundation of English cricket and deserves respect and a little more credit for England's success.

Fortunately, it seems that the 18 counties are reluctant to go down the route of playing only one game against two of the counties and two against the other six in their division.

A top flight of eight teams and a second division of ten, possibly divided into two pools of five, is believed to be the alternative and certainly makes more sense – at least for the elite.

But if change really has to happen, my preference would be for three pools of six.

Ten games per county would be considered too few but it would mean a more level playing field.

And you only have to look at the

Sheffield Shield in Australia, to see that it could work.

There, the six teams – Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia – do annual battle in one of the world's most respected and arguably strongest domestic competitions.

The Sheffield Shield is decided by a final between the top two.

A 'timeless' final to decide the LV County Championship would probably be viewed as impractical, but why not?

Enough extra time would still be available to increase the Twenty20 competition, if that is really necessary, and provide adequate rest.

With three divisions of six, play-offs could also be introduced to determine promotion and relegation.

Alternatively, the pools could be regionalised to reduce travel time, with semi-finals and a final involving the three winners and best runners-up.

What does look likely is that the Twenty20 competition will be

reserved for Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

An established time in the week is known in the marketing business as an 'appointment to view', which Stuart Robertson advocated during his time as the Rose Bowl's commercial director.

It makes sense, but you cannot help but feel 14 games per county revisits the same problem we had in 2010, when 16 group games was considered too many.

Money talks, which is why counties will be playing 40-over one-day cricket for the third successive season in 2012.

But the Clydesdale Bank 40 has not attracted the crowds that were hoped for.

It was predicted that it would revive interest and we were given John Player League nostalgia as evidence.

But the beauty of the JPL is that it was played every Sunday afternoon – the modern-day PR man's 'appointment to view'.

It does not work when played on virtually every other day of the week at some stage during the season. So why not give it a consistent run at a designated time like the T20 proposals?

The one-day competition has not been the same since Hampshire won the last 50-over final in 2009.

But is a return to 50-over cricket really the answer?

A knockout stage beginning with quarter-finals will restore interest and brings the one-day competition into line with 50-over one-day internationals.

But for me, the Clydesdale Bank 40 has not been given the best possible chance to succeed.

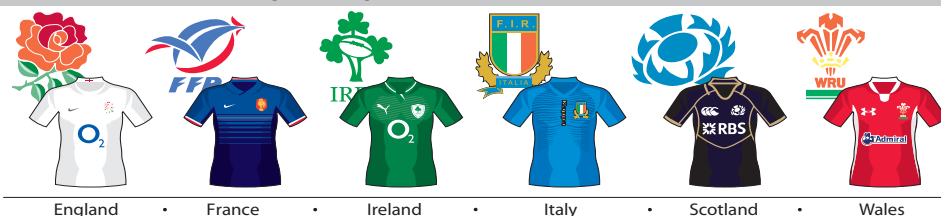
DAILY ECHO AND SPORTS PINK - BEST FOR CRICKET ALL YEAR ROUND

Six Nations preview ... Six Nations preview ...

RETIRED: Wales will have to do without Shane Williams for the 2012 Six Nations.

RBS 6 Nations Championship 2012

February 4 - March 17



Championship schedule (all times GMT)

Saturday, February 4

France v Italy
Stade de France – 2.30pm
Scotland v England
Murrayfield – 5pm

Sunday, February 5

Ireland v Wales
Aviva Stadium – 3pm

Saturday, February 11

Italy v England
Stadio Olimpico – 4pm
France v Ireland
Stade de France – 8pm

Sunday, February 12

Wales v Scotland
Millennium Stadium – 3pm

Saturday, February 25

Ireland v Italy
Aviva Stadium – 1.30pm

England v Wales
Twickenham – 4pm

Sunday, February 26

Scotland v France
Murrayfield – 3pm

Saturday, March 10

Wales v Italy
Millennium Stadium – 2.30pm

Ireland v Scotland
Aviva Stadium – 5pm

Sunday, March 11

France v England
Stade de France – 3pm

Saturday, March 17

Italy v Scotland
Stadio Olimpico – 12.30pm

Wales v France
Millennium Stadium – 2.45pm

England v Ireland
Twickenham – 5pm



Press Association Graphic

IF the World Cup is an accurate form guide ahead of this season's RBS 6 Nations Championship, then all roads should lead to Cardiff on March 17.

Not only is Wales versus France a rematch of the contentious World Cup semi-final won by Les Bleus in Auckland just over three months ago, it could serve as a title and Grand Slam decider.

Given that the World Cup is such a recent form pointer, it is not unrealistic to expect an enthralling winner-takes-all tournament finale, especially as both countries play three of their five games on home soil.

Such is the competition's often unpredictable nature, though, that either Wales or France – or both – might easily see those grand ambitions dented inside the opening two weekends.

Ireland provide the common denominator, thirsting for revenge against their World Cup quarter-final conquerors Wales on February 5, then heading to Paris six days later.

On the debit side, Ireland are without their inspirational captain Brian O'Driscoll for the entire tournament due to injury, but recent Heineken Cup results favour a strong Irish Six Nations challenge given that Leinster, Munster and Ulster have all secured quarter-final places.

France are now under the coaching guidance of Philippe Saint-Andre after Marc Lievreumont's enigmatic reign ended following a World Cup final appearance against New Zealand that produced an 8-7 defeat.

Les Bleus defied all logic, overcoming repeated reports of rifts and rows in the camp,

Last-day decider in Cardiff on cards

which begs the question of how well they might do if Saint-Andre presides over a happy and undivided camp.

Starting at home to Italy, then hosting Ireland before facing Scotland, England (in Paris) and finally visiting Wales, France probably look the most likely to win a championship that again appears wide open.

The key for Wales, who will begin life without retired superstar wing Shane Williams, is undoubtedly their opening match in Dublin.

If they can repeat their World Cup heroics and topple Ireland, they should follow it up with a victory over Scotland in Cardiff the following weekend, which would then set up a pivotal appointment with England at Twickenham.

England, despite their dismal World Cup campaign in New Zealand that was dominated by off-field events, are the reigning Six Nations champions and won 10 of 13 Tests in 2011.

But they will launch that title defence with an interim coach at the helm – Stuart Lancaster – assisted by Andy Farrell and Graham Rowntree, a new captain following Lewis Moody's post-World Cup Test retirement and probably a new-look team.

Lancaster is in a no-lose situation, given that no-one seriously expects him to keep the job post-Six Nations, so he can bask in the unusual position whereby he will not necessarily be judged exclusively on results.

If England can stage a marked improvement from the World Cup – and that should not be difficult – while young players such as Owen Farrell, Charlie Sharples and Ben Morgan are given their chance, then Lancaster will have done little wrong.

England need to play without shackles, utilise the talent of individuals like scrum-half Ben Youngs and full-back Ben Foden, and give their long suffering supporters something to shout about.

In contrast, the pressure is well and truly on Scotland boss Andy Robinson, who presided over a World Cup pool exit – the Scots' first in the tournament's history – and recently saw points machine Chris Paterson exit the Test arena.

As always, it seems, Scotland need to find a way of scoring tries consistently, although there will be little to upset the locals if kicks prove enough for a Calcutta Cup triumph when England arrive in Edinburgh on the opening day.

Italy, with 58-year-old Frenchman Jacques Brunel having succeeded Nick Mallett in the coaching hot-seat, again appear most likely recipients of the proverbial wooden spoon.

Home games against England and Scotland will be staged at Stadio Olimpico, rather than Italy's familiar Stadio Flaminio venue, but it is difficult to envisage anything other than Azzurri propping up the Six Nations table.

For Wales and France, though, it looks a different prospect entirely.

SPORTS QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"The first half was sort of Brixton, the second half was a holiday in Jamaica" – **Martin Jol** gives his assessment of Fulham's 5-2 win over Newcastle.

"He's got hold of his leg and Karl backheels him. Albrighton does roll about as if he has been hit by a steamroller, but it is a sending-off" – **Wolves manager Mick McCarthy** admits Karl Henry deserved a red card for his kick at Aston Villa's Marc Albrighton.

"He kicked Scott Parker in the head. He does it a lot, he backheeled him in the face and cut his head. No-one can make excuses that he didn't do it, anyone can see he did do it" – **Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp** fumes after Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli's, pictured, challenge on Spurs man Parker.

"I've been a manager for 30 years and have made 50,000 subs. I do not have to justify every decision I make. I stand up for it" – **Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger** defends himself against criticism from Gunners fans following his decision to substitute Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain in the 2-1 defeat to Manchester United.

"The talk is always about the next big game but you can always rely on Mario to set some fireworks off to get the headlines and the rest of us can just quietly keep going about our business" – **James Milner** on the joys of having Mario Balotelli as a teammate.

"I find it very strange that Mr Webb can really claim that he didn't see. I'm really mad and I think the Football Association should send this referee to the optician. If you don't see what happens one metre away, what do you see?" – **Balotelli's agent Mino Raiola** on referee Howard Webb, pictured.

"If City have got any more like him that they want rid of, we are only down the East Lincs Road" – **Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish** after former Manchester City forward Craig Bellamy scores the decisive goal in the Carling Cup semi-final.

"I might have been awake all night, trying to practise my action in front of the mirror – so it avoided me doing that" – **England spinner Monty Panesar** on the benefits of being informed of his selection against Pakistan only on the morning of the game.

"I have heard in the dressing room it is impossible to win here" – **Real Madrid boss Jose Mourinho**, pictured, after his team lost to Barcelona again.

"This is the last wake-up call for everyone, this trend has to change very quickly to safeguard European football. We must end this negative spiral and gamble for success. These losses cannot continue" – **UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino**, responding to figures which show that only four of the top 30 leagues in Europe are breaking even financially.

"I did wait until the nuptials were concluded. I think they were opening some presents as I asked him but I think he knew what was coming. And you look at the weather here, why would you want to go to Tahiti?" – **Bolton boss Owen Coyle**, whose new signing Tim Ream cancelled his honeymoon to complete a move to the Premier League.

LOCAL RUGBY APPEARS IN THE DAILY ECHO EVERY TUESDAY

Skipper baffled by his side's collapse

CAPTAIN Andrew Strauss was at a loss to explain how England collapsed to their lowest ever Test total against Pakistan to slip to another embarrassing defeat.

Needing 145 to win, England were skittled out for just 72 in Abu Dhabi, their third poor batting performance in four innings on this tour, to lose the second Test by 72 runs and give their opponents an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Strauss, who top scored with 32, said: "I wish I could explain it. Ultimately it was about very good bowling from both ends, applying pressure, making it hard for us to score and maybe we didn't take as many good options as we should have done."

"We'll have some regrets about that but it was an outstanding game of cricket."

"We came up short, but ultimately you've got to congratulate Pakistan. They were outstanding."

England were in an excellent position after Monty Panesar took six for 62 as Pakistan were dismissed for 214 this morning.

But they never looked comfortable against Pakistan's spinners – Abdur Rehman did the bulk of the damage with six for 25 – and they scored at under two an over throughout their brief second innings.

"Sometimes you need to spend a bit of time at the wicket, things generally get easier, so there's always that balance between attack and defence," said Strauss, pictured above.

"People individually have to make their choice."

"But ultimately we didn't get it right."

"There were some outstanding performances on our side – Monty in particular coming back into the side, Stuart Broad, Alastair Cook – we worked hard to get into a position to win the game but ultimately we couldn't take that opportunity."

"We've been rolled over three times out of four, the top order have to take that on the chin and make sure that it doesn't happen again."



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



Iwan delighted to help give Games advice ...

IWAN THOMAS might spend more time commentating on the athletics track than running on it nowadays.

But the Olympic silver medalist ensured his influence will live on this summer by lending a helping hand to the south coasts' Olympic hopefuls this week, writes **BEN BAKER**.

Thomas was in his adopted hometown of Fareham at the Holiday Inn Hotel to speak to the families of the south coast's potential Olympians as part of P&G's 'nearest and dearest' campaign, which looks to ready them for the sheer scale of a Games.

Having claimed 4x400m silver at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 – going on to win the world title a year later in Athens – Thomas is well placed to offer an insight into the Games experience and was on hand this week to dish out some advice.

And with Thomas only too aware of the well-meaning distraction a family can cause at Games time, the 38-year-old was only too happy to have his brains picked.

"I really like the scheme that P&G have got me involved in and there was nothing around for me when I was competing and I think it is a really good idea," said Thomas.

"It all happened quite quickly for me as the 1996 Olympics were my first Games and that was also the same year that I left university and I didn't anticipate making the team."

"I had put together a three-year plan but sometimes that goes out of the window and athletes can get thrust into the limelight and that is when family and friends become really important."

"But, despite their best intentions, sometimes they can be a



GREAT HELP: Cyclist Dani King with parents Lynn and Trevor.

distraction because they want to see you before you race and it can be quite stressful balancing the two.

"So this scheme helps the friends and family out while they support their loved ones."

"If I can help pass on some of my experiences and it makes even the slightest of difference, then obviously I am more than happy to do that – and I hope it helps."

Among the crowd attending were the parents of Southampton's London 2012 diver Chris Mears and Danielle King, the cyclist who helped Great Britain claim team pursuit gold at last year's World Track Cycling Championships.

And with the pair likely to have the weight of a nation on their shoulders in London this year, Thomas – who also won individual European 400m gold in 1998 – believes the evening in Fareham was more important than ever.

"With this year's Olympics being a home Games there is going to be that added amount of pressure, but it is a good pressure really," he added.

"Being a top-class athlete is always about raising your game on the big stage and there is no better stage than at an Olympics on your home turf."

"So any help they can get with dealing with this, making this easier, then that could go a long way later this year when it really matters."

Iwan Thomas was speaking at the Southampton leg of the 'nearest & dearest' roadshow in partnership with P&G – supporting family and friends of all Team GB and Paralympics GB athletes in the lead up to London 2012. Visit www.pgproudsponsorsorofmums.co.uk for more information.

Family and friends, despite their best intentions, can be a distraction ... it can be stressful balancing the two

EXPECTANT mothers have reacted angrily after being told their babies will be banned from the Olympic Games unless they have their own ticket.

Rules for this summer's games mean every child, including small babies carried in their parents' arms, must have their own seat or they will be excluded from the Games.

The rules – which Olympic officials have now pledged to look at again – even apply to babies who were not conceived when their parents bought tickets.

The Olympics helpline has received calls from concerned pregnant women and expectant fathers whose babies will just be a few weeks old when the Games commence.

They have been told they can try and buy an extra ticket for their chosen event, otherwise the infant will be prevented from entering the venue.

The issue has attracted fury on the Mumsnet website, with parents saying they are being forced to pay full price for babies not yet born.



One woman described it as the "biggest rip-off in the history of London" while others wondered what to do with babies they will be breastfeeding.

Another said: "The whole thing is ridiculous, there are people who bought tickets before their babies were even conceived – how are they supposed to know to buy a ticket for a child that doesn't exist yet?"

"There should be more complaining about this policy. It's nuts."

A Q&A on the issue on the Olympics website says everyone attending the Olympic Games must be a ticket holder, no matter how old they are.

But following the outcry, organisers have said they will look again at the issue.

Justine Roberts, co-founder and chief executive of Mumsnet said on the website www.mumsnet.com: "It's an ill-thought-out policy and I

FOLLOW THE OLYMPICS IN THE ECHO, PINK AND ONLINE



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



Mums hit out at Olympic 'rip-off'

ROB
TOBIN

Rob facing 'tough ask' for London

IWAN Thomas knows a thing or two about what makes a good 4x400m relay team, having helped Great Britain claim silver at the Atlanta Olympics.

And he believes the man to make the class of 2012 tick is a returning Robert Tobin, *writes Ben Baker.*

The 28-year-old Hampshire runner looked well placed to earn a plane ticket to Daegu for last summer's World Championships, heading into the 400m final at July's UK Trials and Championships as the third fastest qualifier.

His time of 45.74 seconds was the second fastest of his year, but with just 150m to go in the showpiece, disaster struck as he pulled up with a hamstring injury, cancelling his South Korean trip there and then. Tobin watched on as Martyn Rooney failed to make the 400m final and as Great Britain's 4x400m men's team finished a disappointing seventh.

And you can't help but think Tobin's influence would have made all the difference in the relay, the Basingstoke & Mid Hants ace having helped Great Britain and England climb the podium at a Commonwealth Games, European and World Championships during his career.

But with the worst now behind him Tobin will return to the track this year fresh and ready to prove his credentials ahead of London 2012, something Thomas expects to make all the difference in the capital later this year.

"Rob has had a tough time of it with injuries but he is on his way back from that and that is great news for the Great British team," said Thomas,

speaking at a P&G 'nearest & dearest' roadshow in Fareham.

"Although every athlete should be thinking about making it to the Olympics in an individual sense, we have to think about the 4x400m relay team too and Rob is a stalwart of that.

"He has helped the team win medals at major competitions and is now a bit of an old head in that team. The team for the Olympics would definitely benefit from having Rob in there.

"It is a tough ask, though, because of the injuries he has had but if he can run well again then he can realistically make the relay team.

"And if he was to do that then the team would receive a huge boost because he has been there and done it before at all the major competitions and guys like that in a relay team are crucial."

With all eyes set to be on London this summer the athletes pulling on the GB vest will undoubtedly be under intense pressure to provide some cheer for an eager home crowd.

And while some may crumble under the pressure, Thomas believes there is no need to worry about Tobin's mental strength.

"The pressure of the Olympics is huge but it will be even bigger this time around what with it being in London so experienced heads are needed," he added.

"Being a top-class athlete is always about raising your game on the big stage and there is no better stage than at an Olympics on your home turf.

"And you don't get much more experienced than Rob. I hope that he continues to impress on his way back."

think the feeling on Mumsnet is that it's discriminatory.

The National Indoor Arena (NIA) in Birmingham, which hosts a range of international sporting events, said its policy for those is that babies do not need a ticket to

attend. A spokesperson said: "We don't have a strict age policy in place, however we say that generally before a child is walking, we are happy for them to be admitted without a ticket. Once a child is old enough to be walking and requires their own seat, it

is then necessary for them to be ticketed."

However the NIA said venue policy can be subject to change on a show-by-show basis.

At Lord's cricket matches babies and toddlers under three go free.

Organisers of the

Wimbledon

Tennis Championships do not recommend that babies are taken. Children under five are allowed in without a ticket – but may not enter Centre Court or the other show courts.

At Wembley Stadium, restrictions vary on an

event by event basis. For those events which do allow children under 16, all spectators must have a ticket.

At Twickenham, children under two do not require a ticket but must be securely strapped to an adult sitting in the lower tier.

Did You Know?

WITH the Olympics getting fully under way in around six months' time, here the *Sports Pink* looks at how the London 2012 site will be managed once the athletes have gone home.

Olympic Stadium

Expressions of interest have to be in by the end of the month. Saints' Championship title rivals West Ham remain the favourites but their interest has cooled slightly – though this may just be posturing in order to get a better deal.



WHAT NEXT? The Olympic Stadium.

Aquatics Centre

Greenwich Leisure have signed a deal to run the centre and the handball arena – which will become a multi-purpose sports centre after the Games and the income from which should cover the loss-making aquatics centre.

Velodrome

The Olympic velodrome, along with the hockey pitches, will be run by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority after the Games.



WHAT NEXT? The Aquatics Centre.

Olympic Village

Qatari Diar and British developer Delancey signed a £557million deal last year to buy and manage the athletes' village as private housing after the games. The Triathlon Homes housing association will provide the social housing aspect of the village.

Media Centre

The Olympic Park Legacy Company have shortlisted three bidders to become anchor tenants and a decision will be announced in June or July.

Olympic Park

Balfour Beatty have been employed for the upkeep of the park. They will also operate the Orbit sculpture and viewing tower or sub-contract that.

Six firms have been shortlisted to build 800 homes at Chobham Manor in the north of the park.

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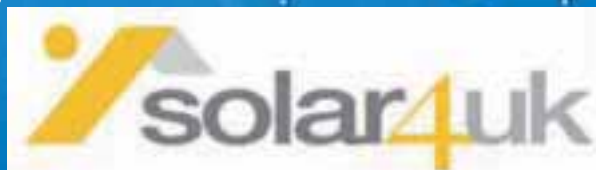
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FA Cup Fourth Round

Blackpool1	Sheff Wed1
K Phillips 90 pen	Morrison 52
HT 0-0	Att 14,042
Bolton.....2	Swansea.....1
Prattley 45	Moore 43
Eagles 56	Att 11,597
HT 1-1	
Brighton.....L	Newcastle.....L
HT L-L	
Derby Cty.....0	Stoke.....2
HT 0-1	Jerome 5, Huth 81
Hull.....0	Crawley.....1
HT 0-0	Att 22,247
Leicester.....2	Swindon.....0
Beckford 5, 53	Att 14,473
HT 1-0	
Liverpool.....2	Man Utd.....1
Agger 21, Kuyt 88	Att 19,942
HT 1-1	Att 39
Millwall.....1	SAINTS.....0
Henderson 86	Att 43,952
HT 0-1	Att 8,278
Q.P.R......0	Chelsea.....1
HT 0-0	Mata 62 pen
Sheff Utd.....0	Birmingham.....4
HT 0-2	Att 15,728
Stevenage.....1	Notts Cnty.....0
Stewart 12 og	Att 17,434
HT 1-0	
W.B.A......1	Norwich.....2
Fortune 54	Holt 35, Jackson 85
HT 0-1	Att 17,434

npower Championship

Peterboro.....0	POMPEY.....3
HT 0-2	Huseklepp 5,79, Pearce 40
Reading.....1	Bristol C......0
Roberts 58	Att 17,825
HT 0-0	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
West Ham	27	8	2	3	22	13	8	3	3	21	11	53
SAINTS	27	11	1	2	30	11	4	4	5	20	19	50
Cardiff	27	9	2	2	27	16	4	8	2	17	13	49
Reading	28	7	4	4	21	14	6	2	5	14	13	45
Middlesbro	27	5	7	2	15	12	7	2	4	16	16	45
Hull	27	8	0	5	16	13	6	3	5	12	24	45
Birmingham	26	9	4	0	22	6	3	3	7	20	25	43
Blackpool	27	3	3	2	22	9	3	6	5	21	25	42
Leeds Utd	27	7	2	4	20	17	5	4	5	23	21	42
Brighton	27	7	3	3	20	12	5	2	7	10	17	41
Derby Cty	27	8	2	4	20	14	7	3	6	11	19	41
Burnley	27	5	4	5	22	15	4	7	0	17	18	40
Leicester	27	6	3	5	20	15	4	5	4	16	15	38
Crystal P	27	4	7	2	12	9	6	0	8	14	18	37
Barnsley	27	6	2	6	23	22	4	4	5	15	20	36
POMPEY	27	7	3	3	19	10	2	4	8	13	19	35
Peterboro	28	6	2	6	28	25	3	4	7	17	22	33
Watford	27	5	4	5	19	20	2	5	6	9	19	30
Bristol C	28	4	3	6	12	15	4	3	8	13	23	30
Millwall	27	5	5	4	17	16	2	3	8	10	19	29
Ipswich	27	5	1	7	20	22	3	3	8	18	32	28
Nottm For	27	3	2	9	11	24	4	1	8	11	20	24
Doncaster	27	4	5	4	10	12	2	0	12	13	33	23
Coventry	27	5	4	5	17	15	0	3	10	6	21	22

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Brentford5	Wycombe2
Alexander 10,29,81	Winfield 47
Saunders 22	Stevens 76
Diagouraga 73	Att 5,560
HT 3-0	
Exeter.....0	Charlton.....0
HT 0-0	Green 55
Hartlepool.....4	Carlisle.....4
James 6,67	Att 5,439
Sweeney 17	
Nish 81	
HT 2-0	Att 5,995
Leyton O.....0	Colchester.....1
HT 0-1	Forbes 28 og
Rochdale.....3	Bury.....0
Alpa Akpro 15	Att 4,659
Grimes 41,55	
HT 2-0	Att 5,033
Tranmere.....1	Huddersfld.....1
McGurk 51	Rhodes 49
HT 0-0	Att 5,851
Yeovil.....2	Preston.....1
A Williams 30,62	Att 4,245
HT 1-0	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Charlton	27	8	4	0	27	8	11	2	2	25	11	63
Huddersfld	28	9	4	1	25	13	5	8	1	31	15	54
Sheff Utd	27	10	2	2	33	16	6	3	4	19	12	53
Sheff Wed	27	9	3	1	27	13	7	2	5	23	22	53
M K Dons	26	6	5	1	24	13	7	3	4	27	17	47
Stevenage	27	6	4	3	21	14	6	5	3	22	11	45
Carlisle	27	6	4	3	24	22	5	6	5	17	21	42
Brentford	28	5	5	2	22	20	6	5	3	16	15	40
CHERRIES	28	6	2	6	14	17	6	6	4	21	18	40
Hartlepool	28	4	2	8	14	16	6	5	3	22	20	37
Bury	27	5	3	5	17	20	6	1	7	18	24	37
Colchester	27	5	4	2	24	25	4	4	5	13	16	36
Preston	28	4	3	6	23	28	5	3	6	18	20	36
Leyton O	28	4	4	7	14	20	5	4	4	16	19	35
Notts Cnty	27	6	5	2	23	15	3	2	9	19	25	34
Oldham	26	5	3	5	16	16	3	5	5	16	21	32
Tranmere	28	7	3	14	11	3	1	9	15	23	32	32
Yeovil	28	4	5	18	25	1	7	5	13	21	27	27
Exeter	28	4	5	5	13	15	2	4	8	11	25	27
Walsall	27	2	6	5	14	18	1	7	5	12	15	25
Scunthorpe	27	2	6	6	10	26	2	7	4	17	15	25
Rochdale	28	3	6	5	17	22	2	3	9	10	27	24
Chesterfld	28	3	5	6	14	18	2	3	9	19	31	23
Wycombe	28	4	2	8	17	24	2	3	9	18	30	23

npower League Two

AFC Wimbledon.....1	Aldershot.....2
Att 2,76	Straker 13,70
HT 1-1	Att 4,634

Acc Stanley.....4	Gillingham.....3
Smith 1,19,45	Jackman 7
Joyce 31	Tomlin 70,85
HT 4-1	Att 1,734
Barnet.....2	Crewe.....0
McLeod 30 pen	
Hector 77	
HT 1-0	Att 2,263
Bristol R.....2	Bradford.....1
Brown 6	Davies 72
Richards 55	
HT 1-0	Att 6,164
Dagenham.....3	Rotherham.....2
Nurse 50	Harrison 28
Bradley 62 og	Revell 63
Doyle 78	
HT 0-1	Att 1,744
Hereford.....0	Shrewsbury.....2
	Gornell 16
	Collins 27
	Att 3,515
Macclesfld.....1	Cheltenham.....3
Marshall 30	Jombait 37
	Goulding 67
	Garbutt 90
	Att 1,659
Port Vale.....1	Plymouth.....0
Pope 86	
HT 0-0	Att 4,375
Torquay.....1	Northmptn.....0
Ellis 75	
HT 0-0	Att 2,719

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Cheltenham	27	9	2	3	19	8	8	2	3	23	16	55
Southend	26	7	4	2	21	9	9	0	4	30	19	52
Crawley	26	10	1	2	29	11	5	6	2	19	19	52
Shrewsbury	27	10	3	0	22	7	5	3	6	19	18	51
Torquay	28	8	5	2	27	17	6	3	4	15	15	50
Swindon	26	9	2	1	26	7	6	2	6	15	13	49
Acc Stanley	28	8	1	5	24	19	3	9	2	14	13	43
Oxford Utd	27	5	6	2	23	14	6	3	5	15	13	42
Gillingham	27	7	3	2	22	12	5	2	8	25	27	41
Port Vale	28	6	2	6	25	21	6	3	5	20	18	41
Burton Alb	27	6	4	3	16	15	5	4	5	24	24	41
Crewe	28	5	2	6	19	19	7	1	7	18	21	39
Rotherham	27	6	2	5	18	14	4	5	5	26	28	37
Morecambe	27	3	4	7	23	21	6	5	2	20	13	36
AFC Wdon	28	4	3	8	22	32	6	2	5	17	21	35
Bristol R	28	5	3	7	19	24	4	3	6	17	25	33
Barnet	27	5	3	5	19	22	4	2	8	16	24	32
Aldershot	27	4	3	6	10	12	5	1	8	16	23	31
Macclesfld	28	5	6	4	17	13	3	0	10	9	21	30
Bradford	27	5	4	5	23	19	1	5	7	9	19	27
Hereford	28	3	2	10	13	30	3	6	4	14	15	26
Dagenham	27	5	1	9	20	26	2	2	9	9	23	24
Plymouth	28	3	4	6	15	19	2	3	10	14	31	22
Northmptn	28	1	4	9	15	31	4	2	8	18	26	21

Scottish League Cup Semi-final

Ayr Utd.....0	Kilmarnock.....1
HT 0-0	Shiels 109
AET: Score after 90 mins 0-0.	Att 2,057

Clydesdale Bank Premier

Aberdeen	1	Dunfrmline	0									
Vernon 24			Att 8,081									
HT 1-0												
Inverness CT	0	St Mirren	0									
HT 0-0			Att 3,044									
Motherwell	3	St Johnstn	2									
Ojamaa 22.65			Morris 45									
Lasley 75			Sandaza 81 pen									
HT 1-1			Att 4,520									
Rangers	4	Hibernian	0									
Davis 27.90												
Healy 55												
Aluko 72												
HT 1-0			Att 44,057									
	P	W	D									
	L	F	A									
	W	D	L									
	F	A	Pt									
Celtic	24	10	1	26	6	9	1	2	22	10	59	
Rangers	25	9	4	0	26	8	9	0	3	21	6	58
Motherwell	24	5	3	4	13	13	7	2	3	18	16	41
Hearts	24	8	0	4	23	9	2	5	5	7	3	35
St Johnstn	24	4	1	7	14	17	6	4	2	18	10	35
Aberdeen	25	5	5	3	17	11	2	3	7	10	19	29
Dundee Utd	24	3	4	5	12	13	3	5	4	21	25	27
Kilmarnock	23	5	4	3	20	19	1	5	5	7	15	27
St Mirren	25	4	3	5	13	14	2	6	5	12	22	27
Inverness CT	24	4	3	5	13	16	3	2	7	17	24	26
Hibernian	24	1	4	7	12	21	3	2	7	12	24	18
Dunfrmline	24	0	4	7	13	31	4	1	8	13	22	17

Scottish Division One

Queen Sth.....2	Morton.....1
Parkin 58,65	Campbell 75</